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 30, 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
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Greg Moran, Aide to Legislator Nowick
Jordan Wilson, Aide to Legislator Montano
Justin Littell, Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Wilbur Klatsky, Community Development Corporation
John Schwartz, Community Development Corporation
Liza Coppola, Community Action of Southold Town, Inc.
Merle Levine, Community Action of Southold Town, Inc.
Joanne Stengel, Deer Park Community Organization, Inc.
Claire McKeon, Town of Babylon Youth Bureau
David Kilmnick, Long Island Gay & Lesbian Youth
James Fallarino, Long Island Gay & Lesbian Youth
Dawn Shedrick, Long Island Gay & Lesbian Youth
Sioban Eareckson, Long Island Gay & Lesbian Youth
Francine Alogna, Long Island Gay & Lesbian Youth
Aileen Fitz, Brighter Tomorrows
Barbara Watson, Brighter Tomorrows
Karen Martin, Brighter Tomorrows
Adam Ortiz, Organizacion Latino Americana
Stacey Spencer, South Fork Community Health Initiative
All Other Interested Parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:
Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer

[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:32 A.M.]

LEG. ALDEN:
Good morning, and welcome to our Suffolk Committee on Contract Agencies. And we'll start with a salute to the flag, led by Legislator Nowick.

(*Salutation*)

I'd also like to just take a moment of silence, and that's in remembrance of those that have served this country and actually given their lives and those -- just to keep them in our hearts and our memories, those that are actually serving as we speak.

(*Moment of Silence*)

Thank you. Community Development Corporation of Long Island? Hi. Come on up. And while you're coming up, the Chairman, who is also the Presiding Officer, likes to just give a little explanation of why we're having you in here. And basically, last year, when we went through the budget cycle, there was questions on what some of the agencies provided to Suffolk County. There was also some criticism of the Legislature for spending tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money and just squandering it, basically. So what the Presiding Officer decided to do was put together a subcommittee to look at as many of the contract agencies as we could and to get a feel for what type of services providing to the citizens of Suffolk County. And hopefully, this budget cycle, when we go through it again, when those kind of criticisms or those kind of questions come up, we'll have most of the answers.

So, if you'd introduce yourselves and then give us a brief explanation of, you know, what you do and things like that.

MR. KLATSKY:
First of all, thank you for the invitation. We always want to get the word out as to what we're doing.

My name is Wilbur Klatsky. Everybody calls me Bill. I'm the CEO of the Community Development Corporation. The corporation's been in existence for going on thirty-eight years, and basically our mission ans what we've been all of that period of time are serving the underserved of Long Island. We run a range of programs, helping and building affordable housing. We have been performing -- we also are the largest Section 8 provider on the Island. We were the first in the country to provide a program of Section 8 to homeownership.

Among our other relationships is that, over and above our relationship with Suffolk County, where we have a few programs, we're also a community development financial institution, recognized by U.S. Treasury. We're a member of a national group called NeighborWorks of America, which is -- concentrates on housing and housing related problems.

We have a client base -- we probably touch probably ten to fifteen thousand residents in both counties every year from an educational point of view as to financial services, financial education. We have a range of programs that basically helps the underserved of Long Island.
We have a staff that is roughly 84 people at this juncture. Again, I'm the CEO. The staff is multiracial, multilingual, and we have a range of clients that we deal with in various neighborhoods throughout -- throughout the County.

One of the programs we do operate with with some help from the County is down-payment assistance for our Homeownership Program. I think that was roughly $9,000 in 2006. Keep in mind that in order to run these programs, we can't -- we don't rely on any one source to make it work. It's a range of sources that provide the capital to run these programs. So we're here to be helpful. We think we have a heck of a message to tell you what we do and are open to any questions you have. Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:
Sure. So you cover all of Suffolk County?

MR. KLATSKY:
Correct, and Nassau County.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. And employees, you said 84. Those are full-time?

MR. KLATSKY:
Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:
Any part-time or volunteers?

MR. SCHWARTZ:
One part-time.

MR. KLATSKY:
One part-time, and the Board itself is -- with the exception of me, are volunteers.

LEG. ALDEN:
And how much total funding do you get from the County?

MR. KLATSKY:
What is it, John.

MR. SCHWARTZ:
One principal program for the last few years has been a -- I'm sorry. Principal program up until recently was ninety-two hundred dollars for a Family Assistance Program for displaced people, homeless people. More recently, we have seen a tremendous increase in the support from the County, which we're very appreciative of, in the County's deeding over to us abandoned homes that they own for rehab, as well as the support for the houses in Mattituck, the cottages in Mattituck.

LEG. ALDEN:
I don't think we count -- and I'll ask John. We don't really count in-kind services, so if we provide the properties, that would be the same kind of a transfer that we would to a town for affordable housing, so that one wouldn't really count as -- I don't think.

MR. ORTIZ:
As far as the budget, no, we don't count that.

LEG. ALDEN:
So about ninety-two hundred dollars?

MR. KLATSKY:
Yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:
And --

MR. KLATSKY:
But let me just stop a second. Those homes primarily in the Town of Brookhaven are really -- are really an excellent component of finding homes that are in troubled, or in neighborhoods where they -- where the houses now -- has now been vacant for awhile and causing problems. Those

houses now get restored by us basically and made available to first-time home-buyers or as rental units to people of modest income. So it's a great program.

LEG. ALDEN:
I know it's a great program, because we do it with Islip --

MR. KLATSKY:
Yeah, okay.

LEG. ALDEN:
-- and we do it with the other -- but, as far as a bookkeeping, you know, we don't put that on your side of the ledger as, you know, we're giving you "X" number of dollars in value of the building lots.

LEG. NOWICK:
That's a good thing.

LEG. ALDEN:
Yep. What's your total budget?

MR. SCHWARTZ:
The revenues -- our revenues approximate 10 to 11 million dollars a year, and as we're a not-for-profit, expenses approximate 10 to 11 million dollars a year. We're audited by Holtz Rubenstein, as well as by other providers, specifically this NeighborWorks organization from the Federal Government.

LEG. ALDEN:
And how much do you receive from different levels, like Federal, State and any town?

MR. SCHWARTZ:
The Federal and State, in answer to one of the questions asked for, it's approximately seven-and-a-half million dollars of Federal, State and local. The remainder is grant income from various corporate sources, basically banks and insurance companies, as well as some quasi governmental entities, like the Small Business Administration and NeighborWorks.

LEG. ALDEN:
Do you do any outside funding-raising or golf outings, cocktail parties?

MR. SCHWARTZ:
We do. We have two major events a year, a golf outing and a gala luncheon in October that generate, after expenses, approximately 250 to $300,000. But that's the two principal nongrant-related funding sources are those two functions.

LEG. ALDEN:
And then admin. expenses, about how much, or a percentage goes --

MR. SCHWARTZ:
Our percent of admin. has a total of about 7%, and that's in our audited financial statements in the footnote. It runs six to seven percent, which is an attractive cost of operation, vis-a-vis. So 93 cents out of every dollar goes to program efforts.

LEG. ALDEN:
And this is a personal question. Does your CEO make more than 28% of the agency's total budget?

MR. SCHWARTZ:
He asked me if that was going to be a requirement going forward, I told him I didn't think so, but, no. It's, frankly, less than 2% of the total. Total compensation is less than 2% of the operation.

LEG. ALDEN:
If Suffolk County cut your funding, what would be the consequence?

MR. KLATSKY:
If they did?

MR. SCHWARTZ:
If they did.

LEG. ALDEN:
Because sometimes that's the question that -- you know, like we're faced with.

MR. KLATSKY:
Yeah, sure. Going forward, the one area -- the ninety-two hundred dollars would not be a situation that would turn us upside down and then say we can't function any longer. The program that I think that is most consequential from our perspective, and it doesn't appear in the 2006 audit period you're talking about, would be the dollars we receive to -- recently, we acquired land out in Mattituck and are under construction right now for 22 affordable homes. The land cost for that particular program were provided through Jim Morgo. That kind of a change would have a dramatic effect on the ability to produce affordable housing, but either rental or for sale. That's the part that would hurt I think the most.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. And, obviously, there's other not-for-profits and organizations that provide the same services you do. And you worked, as you just mentioned Jim Morgo, so you probably worked with him when he was over at Long Island Housing Partnership?

MR. KLATSKY:
We work with him, we work with a lot of local not-for-profits providing services. We also provide services to small businesses throughout Long Island who are denied access to capital through -- by traditional banks, so we have a range of loan programs, commercial, small business loan programs that also affects everybody in every neighborhood, and we're not getting any funding from the County for that program.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. Do you work with the -- there's an incubator over at Stony Brook, so --

MR. KLATSKY:
We work with the -- we work all of the small business development centers and the incubators, especially when it comes to small business. And one of our Board Members, Dr. Ann-Marie Scheidt, who was at the University, is very much involved with the incubators, as well as {Yakov Schumach} also. And we work with them, and again, we provide capital to small business who are, again, denied access that come from either the incubator or from the Small Business Development Center, either in Stony Brook or from Farmingdale.

LEG. ALDEN:
That's an important function, because we heard testimony as far as our tradition sources of new jobs on Long Island, they're disappearing, but we've become a -- like not a hot bed, but, you know, very active in the formation of small corporations with the high tech and things of that nature. So I think that what you're contributing --

MR. KLATSKY:
Well, we respond to both. We have a client, an engineer from -- who came out of the incubator, who actually took space in our building, engineer who does stuff that I can't even understand, from a heat transfer perspective. And he had this idea, and he was a startup, which is a problem for

many banks. We provided him I think with a $35,000 loan to start, because he's really functioning at this point. But aside from the high tech component, we also -- we also respond to mom and pop small businesses, from the local hair dresser to auto repair, to home maintenance, so we respond to an array of small businesses and we're very actively involved in that. We're the most active micro lender in the TriState area actually, getting most of our capital for that particular program, for the Micro Lend Program, from the Small Business Administration, Federal Small Business Administration.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay, good. Any questions from any of the other committee members?

LEG. NOWICK:
No.

LEG. D'AMARO:
No.

LEG. ALDEN:
Great. Thanks a real lot for coming down, and we appreciate your giving up your time.

MR. KLATSKY:
And thank you very much for the help. Next, is CAST here? Community Action of Southold Town, Inc.

MS. COPPOLA:
Good morning.

LEG. ALDEN:
Good morning.

MS. LEVINE:
Good morning.

MS. COPPOLA:
I'm Liza Coppola. I'm the Executive Director of CAST, and this is Merle Levine. She's the President of the Board of Directors.

A little history. CAST, Community Action of Southold Town, was formed in 1965 under President Johnson's War on Poverty Act. We were funded at that time, fully funded. Over the years, as the laws changed in Suffolk County, had different regulations, CAST funding began to diminish over a period of time. And our agencies that were founded under our umbrella, which include the North Fork Housing Alliance, Economic Opportunity Council and Head Start, all survived, their funding survived and ours did not. We've been pretty much community funded for at least the last 25 years.

Our population is within Southold Town only. We service low income residents in Southold Town. We have a staff of one full-time person, which is myself, two part-timers; two part-timers at 15 hours a week, and myself. We have a base of about 60 volunteers, which we depend on to get our work done. It's about 100 hours per month volunteer time to operate.

We're located in a very small facility. We once shared our office space with EOC, who were funded and carrying us with no rent. We had no rent expenses until about two years ago, when we were forced to move from that location, and now we are paying rent for the first time in many years, and that's about $8,000 a year for us. Our overall budget is $130,000. The percentage of that, 30% goes to the Director's salary. Most of the balance is towards administrative expenses.

As far as our programs and services, we are a food pantry. We have several food programs. We're

unique from emergency type pantries that they have in the church, because we have programs in place to get food to people that need it. One of the things that we offer is a summer feeding program for children, which we will pick up the breakfast and lunch foods that they would normally get for free or reduced costs in the schools, and we provide those meals throughout the summer for eight weeks. We also do the same thing at the spring break and also in the winter break. We provide, you know, Thanksgiving dinners at Thanksgiving time. We have emergency outreach with food. Anyone that comes in and demonstrates a need for emergency food, we're able to give out emergency food bags.

Our monthly program services about 80 families. We have a base of about 120 families that utilize our programs throughout the year. We also have a volunteer computer training program. At one time we had received a grant through Verizon to fund a Training to Work Program where we were training people, giving them job skills and teaching them how to write resumes, and things like that, and actually even dress, because we have a thrift store, which is also free. So we were dressing, you know, Dress for Success Program. And that ran for about three years with a paid instructor. When that funding ran out, we've been offering the class as a volunteer -- you know, a volunteer has been instructing the class, so we've been, you know, very lucky to have volunteers that are willing to teach basic computer skills. We also offer refurbished computers. People are always giving us computers, and the high school kids refurbish them for us and then we're able to give them out to our clients. Everything we do is, you know, done with the help of the community, for the most part.

We have a huge Christmas drive each year, and we're able to furnish toys and gifts for about 100 families, that's also a volunteer effort. School supplies this time of year, volunteer effort. We offer referrals to a lot of different organizations. Our mission is to provide a safety net for people in need and help them become self-sufficient, so we offer referrals in the area of housing, immigration, debt counseling, child support, senior, and everyone comes to us. As my little girl once said, "Mommy tells them what to do next." So that's kind of what we do.

We facilitate applications in our office for the heating programs that are in place, the HEAP Program, Project Warmth, we're certified to do that. We also keep Social Service applications on hand, so we'll help with that, unemployment. We have -- our computer lab is internet access, so we're able to do internet work for folks who don't have computers, which includes unemployment. We offer transportation vouchers, which we pay for. We keep listings of local jobs and rentals in our office. We're a screening site for the local homeless program on the North and South Forks called Maureen's Haven, which I'm sure you've heard of. And, lastly, I'm a member of the Town Youth Bureau Committee.

MS. LEVINE:
Recently, we've become aware and concerned about nutrition, and since our big deal here is to make sure that nobody in our community goes hungry, we also wanted to be sure that they began to learn about nutrition and what kinds of foods would be good, and also we now have an offer from some -- well, we have had -- we have had a cooperative work with Cornell, and she has come in and trained people about what to buy and how to cook it, and that's a really big issue I think for us. That Feed a Kid Program is a tremendous expense for us, because then we are including foods that we would not ordinarily include. So your question before about what would we do if we didn't get our grant, we would just scramble further. Our entire -- our entire operation now is based on having to raise that money.

We are well-known in the community, and there are people who are very generous and very concerned, and that's how come we do have volunteers coming to help. It's so different from what you've just heard, you know. We operate in -- just in Southold Town, but people depend on us and they know we're here for them, and if they have emergencies, they get -- they can come back. So just filling those bags of food that are distributed that people come for is one of the enormous services that we provide.

LEG. ALDEN:
Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:
And you do a very good job of it. Are there any other agencies in your area that do the same thing or --

MS. COPPOLA:
No one's programs are quite like ours in the sense that, like I said, we have our monthly program. People expect and they know they can come in, they don't have to -- you know, and sometimes it's --

LEG. NOWICK:
You're kind of all encompassing, right.

MS. COPPOLA:
Right, exactly. There is the Parish Outreach, the North Fork Parish Outreach that also offers a food pantry.

LEG. NOWICK:
How much funding do you receive from the County.

MS. COPPOLA:
Well, up until -- we have a contract with you now for 3,000, prior to that, it was $1,000 from the County.

LEG. NOWICK:
And do you receive other funding from Federal, State, Town or Village?

MS. COPPOLA:
The only grant that we have acquired over the last about three years is a community block grant through the Town for $5,000, which we're still waiting for for 2006.

LEG. NOWICK:
From the Town?

MS. COPPOLA:
Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:
And that was for 5,000.

MS. COPPOLA:
Five thousand.

LEG. ALDEN:
That's pass-through money, right?

MS. COPPOLA:
Excuse me?

LEG. ALDEN:
That's pass-through.

MS. COPPOLA:

Past due.

LEG. ALDEN:
Pass-through from --

MS. COPPOLA:
Oh, pass-through, through the County.

LEG. NOWICK:
Through the Town to the County, is that what she was trying to say?

LEG. ALDEN:
That's probably part of their Community Development Block Grant.

MS. COPPOLA:
That's right.

LEG. ALDEN:
Yeah. That's Federal usually, right?

MS. COPPOLA:
I would think so.

LEG. ALDEN:
Yeah.

LEG. NOWICK:
It goes from the Federal Government to the Town to them.

LEG. ALDEN:
Right.

LEG. NOWICK:
Okay. And do you have outside fund-raising events?

MS. COPPOLA:
We do, pretty much all year. You know, we have several throughout the year. That's how we raise our money.

LEG. NOWICK:
Just how much do you raise in a year on outside events?

MS. COPPOLA:
On outside events, maybe about $15,000.

LEG. NOWICK:
A year, okay. And I think that was all the questions. But just a quick question, more on a personal thing. You said you do a Dress for Success Program.

MS. COPPOLA:
Correct.

LEG. NOWICK:
Do you have a drop-off kind of a station for that? Or I guess it's out in Southold, though.

MS. COPPOLA:
Yes, it is --

LEG. NOWICK:
Okay.

MS. COPPOLA:
-- out in Southold. We do have bins at the reuse center up at the -- you know, at the Town dump in Cutchogue. We keep bins there, but most of the donations are brought right to our office in Greenport.

LEG. NOWICK:
Okay. Well, thank you very much, and thank you for doing such a good job.

MS. COPPOLA:
Oh, you're welcome.

LEG. NOWICK:
Good work.

LEG. ALDEN:
Is someone here from Deer Park Community Organization, Inc.? Hi.

[Presiding Officer Lindsay Entered the Auditorium 10:00 A.M.]

LEG. ALDEN:
Hi, Bill. Good morning. Thanks for coming down. I don't know if you were here when I made the little bit of a speech at the beginning about why we are running this --

MS. STENGEL:
No, we weren't.

[Legislator Montano Entered the Auditorium at 10:00 A.M.]

LEG. ALDEN:
Basically, last year, when we went through the budget process, names of organizations came up and some of us didn't know what some organizations did. So, to answer that question then, we were also criticized by some people for spending tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money on frivolous things that didn't really do any good for the citizens of Suffolk County. So the Presiding Officer, Mr. Lindsay, put together this subcommittee to bring in as many groups as we could between that time and the time that we go over our budget for next year to try to identify who you are, what you do, and whether it's a worthwhile cause or not. So that was pretty much the motivation behind this, and it gives us a good chance to get to know who you are, so that this time, when we go through the budget, you know, at least we have some answers as far as what kind of programs you provide. So having said that, good morning and --

MS. MCKEON:
Good Morning. I'm not actually with the Deer Park Community Center, I'm the Deputy Director of the Town of Babylon Youth Bureau.

LEG. ALDEN:
Oh. You have to use the --

MS. MCKEON:
Claire McKeon.

LEG. ALDEN:
You have to use the microphone.

MS. MCKEON:
Claire McKeon, Deputy Director, Town of Babylon Youth Bureau.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
And I accompanied Mrs. Stengel, who is the Director of the Deer Park Community Center, because our youth centers are single disbursement centers, they don't receive direct money from the County, it's all passed through the Town of Babylon.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. So whichever one of you wants to take over and give us a little -- and I apologize for that. You could hold it or put it on the -- you know, because it looks like it just came apart, so --

MS. STENGEL:
Okay. I've been the Director of the Deer Park Community Center for 17 years. Our program basically is a recreational, educational and supportive service program for the youths and senior citizens of Deer Park. They've been around since 1978. Currently, we are renting half of a school building from the Deer Park School District, so that not only enables us to have different programming, but we also have the luxury of having a gymnasium. Most of our members do reside in Deer Park, but we do have some people that do come from North Babylon, Dix Hills, Wheatley Heights, and West Babylon, and Wyandanch.

The Youth Program, basically, we have a drop in lounge, which is a recreational, where the kids could come in after school, play pool, play ping-pong, we have play station. We are currently trying to get some computers in there. We're waiting for a grant to come through. And it's well supervised, so the parents, you know, don't have to worry about their children hanging out in the streets. We also have different sports programs and recreational programs during the year. We have a big program. We have basketball, starts at ages five to seven, it goes up to 18. It's instructional, it teaches sportsmanship. We also make sure that everything is fair. Any child of any ability can play in those leagues. That's probably about the biggest one. We offer wiffle ball, we offer soccer, we offer floor hockey, kick ball, and we have some -- even have some three and four year old soccer and open gym program where we play different things with them every week, because they see their older brothers and sisters in there and they want to know why can't they have a program.

The program, also, we have a mother and toddler program that we've been running for about 15 years for ages two to four. It's a two-hour program once a week. There are some dads in there, but they call it a mom and tot. Basically, the parent attends with the child for the first hour. It's a free play. The parent plays with the child or they play with other children, and then they do circle time, they do arts and crafts, they do a healthy snack, but it's a good way for a child to be introduced into a formal program. And a lot of those children end up going to preschools together, so they feel more comfortable.

The center also, we have PAL, a couple of PAL basketball teams for the athlete that is a little more experienced. We had three teams last year that we entered into Suffolk County PAL. We offer homework help, we offer tutoring. It's basically whatever that we feel on that particular time that the kids are interested and that they need.

We do also have a senior citizen club that operates in the building. Most of our seniors are, I would say, in their late seventies, early eighties, so it's nice that the program is local. A lot of them have given up their cars due to expenses or they can't drive anymore, and a lot of them carpool. Or if

they do have to take a cab, it's very inexpensive for them. And, basically, they play cards, they play Pokino, they have a lot parties. We have one of them that sits on the Youth Board of Directors. We have a couple of them help in fund-raisers, and a lot of them also help out if we have dances, if we have any kind of special event. So, basically, we all work together. And that's about -- I guess that's us.

LEG. ALDEN:
A couple of formal questions that we have. How many employees do you have?

MS. STENGEL:
We have eight.

LEG. ALDEN:
And volunteers?

MS. STENGEL:
Currently, we have about I would say five on the -- I think there's five on the Board right now, and when we start the programming, we end up with about ten coaches. We start in September, we start registering now for September.

LEG. ALDEN:
So you have eight full-time on the --

MS. STENGEL:
No, one full-time, seven part-time.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay, sorry. Okay. And any other agencies in your area that provides similar services to the same population?

MS. STENGEL:
There's one, it's sort of similar, it's on the other side of town, but they deal more with children of a certain area. There's a lot of minorities, a lot of lower income, so if it's a transportation problem. It's like a six block radius, but it's, I guess, basically similar.

LEG. ALDEN:
If it's pass-through money, maybe you wouldn't know the question to the next one, how much funding do you actually receive from the County?

MS. MCKEON:
Does Deer Park Community Center?

LEG. ALDEN:
Yes.

MS. MCKEON:
Out of their entire budget, 62,000 comes out of the County.

LEG. ALDEN:
And what's their total budget?

MS. MCKEON:
One-sixty-nine and change.

LEG. ALDEN:
The rest of that money comes from the Town of Babylon?

MS. MCKEON:
Town -- yeah, from the Town of Babylon.

LEG. ALDEN:
Right.

MS. MCKEON:
Which we get State Aid, so it's also State money.

LEG. ALDEN:
Do you do any outside fund-raisers or --

MS. STENGEL:
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:
Oh, yes? Okay. And about how much money do you make from that?

MS. STENGEL:
Last year, we made about 24,000.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. And what percentage of your budget goes towards admin? And I guess, Babylon, you --

MS. MCKEON:
Well, that's hard to put a number to, because our Directors are -- also operate the programs, they clean the bathrooms, they mop the floors, they kind of do everything. If I had to guess, I'd say somewhere between 12 and 16% would go to the administrative costs, but they're kind of the custodian there, too, they do everything.

LEG. ALDEN:
That's okay, just a rough idea. And does your CEO make more than 20% of the agency's total budget?

MS. STENGEL:
No.

MS. MCKEON:
No.

LEG. ALDEN:
And what would be the consequence of not receiving any County funds?

MS. STENGEL:
The doors would probably shut down. We really rely on them, especially fund-raising has gone down in the past couple of years, so, you know, it would really hurt us.

LEG. ALDEN:
The Town of Babylon, basically, you scope all the services for the whole town, and this fits in -- so this is one piece in the big puzzle, right?

MS. MCKEON:
We have nine youth centers, and we also facilitate the funding for the Suffolk Youth Partnership for help. They are monitored. We go out, and although it's just my Director and myself are the only two administrators to run the entire contract agencies, the Youth Bureaus, the Youth Institute, we

do a lot for very little, and our centers also do. And we encourage cooperative services, like Joanne has a gym, so we encourage those that don't to tie in with her programs to service more children. The other program Joanne was eluding to is {SECA}, who does not receive any County funding. They're in a section of Deer Park that it's a pocket of poverty in that particular section. So they're more of an after school and trips program that started years ago in a church that the County, I think it was almost 20 years, the County approved them developing this program. So it's not the same as Joanne's, but we do encourage the other program to work with Joanne's program.

LEG. ALDEN:
Now, this time of year, do you sit down with anybody from the County and start to develop, you know, what your needs are as far as dollars and things like that for the upcoming budget?

MS. MCKEON:
We worked through the Suffolk County Youth Bureau, that's who we deal with directly. So we have Fred Verbarg, and Pat Policastro, and Len Bianco. We deal with them as to what our needs are. But I have to tell you, it's almost September 1 and the Town of Babylon has not received its advance from this County to fund these programs, so the Town has been floating their operation for eight months.

LEG. ALDEN:
I don't know if you've been following, but this is an ongoing problem.

MS. MCKEON:
Yes, I do know. We did have a meeting with -- Suffolk County Youth Bureau did set up a meeting with Mr. Sabatino several months ago where our questions went unanswered. We did ask specific things. We were told -- one thing that was asked was how does the County determine what's allowable and what isn't, and he said that the County Legislature, that the Leg. has a list of things that is allowed, and I asked if I could have a copy of that and he said, "Sure", and I still don't have it, because I'm not sure such a list exists.

P.O. LINDSAY:
If you should get that list, would you forward it to us, because we'd like to see it, too, you know?

MS. MCKEON:
Legislator Lindsay, I would be happy to assist you in that. But because we have some disparity, some things they'll kick out, others they'd -- it will be kicked out in one agency, but not in another.

P.O. LINDSAY:
It's very frustrating for us, because it's -- some of the decisions are very arbitrary, and it's very disturbing to us, and it's an ongoing discussion that we've been having all year long.

MS. MCKEON:
Well, I understand some changes have been made, though.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Could I -- so you have not gotten any money for '07 at all?

MS. MCKEON:
The Town of Babylon has not gotten the advance for 2007 --

P.O. LINDSAY:
And tomorrow is September 1st, right.

MS. MCKEON:
-- for their youth programs, no.

P.O. LINDSAY:
How much of the, sixty-nine, sixty some odd thousand coming from the County have you expended already? You don't know that.

MS. MCKEON:
Well, they're eight months into their grant, so --

P.O. LINDSAY:
And probably a lot of your money is spent over the summer, no?

MS. MCKEON:
A lot of their money, because in another month, they'll start paying back their advance. You know, they are getting their money, because the Town the floating it.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Right.

MS. MCKEON:
Otherwise, they would all have to lock their doors.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
And that will be a tremendous disservice to the youth of our community. Every one of our youth centers is unique, they all service the community needs. They do a needs assessment annually on what that particular community requires, and that's how it operates. So we know what would happen, say, in Wyandanch, who has a much larger direct funding from the County than any of our other centers. When they don't get their advance until the end of April or early May, they're in trouble. That's a serious problem.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator D'Amaro wanted to --

MS. MCKEON:
Hi, Lou.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Hi, good morning. How are you?

MS. MCKEON:
Good.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Good morning. I'm also perplexed over the failure of the County to timely fund pursuant to our budget. Do you have your contract in place, or is it even the contract that's not in place yet?

MS. MCKEON:
Well, my Executive Director had to sit with one of our Town Attorneys to have thirty-nine signatures notarized, which is one of the latest requirements. The paperwork is unbelievable and it keeps growing. So every one of our centers has to do a contract. All of our contracts have been out at the County -- by early February they have everything that they need as far as contracts. We haven't gotten -- I don't think we've gotten all the notifications yet on that. I mean, we know that that's -- it's not going to be a problem, it's just when is the money going to be released?

LEG. D'AMARO:

But the Town of Babylon agency that's here today is supposed to have a contract in place with Suffolk County; is that correct?

MS. MCKEON:
They do.

LEG. D'AMARO:
They do.

MS. MCKEON:
We all have contracts in place with the County.

LEG. D'AMARO:
That contract is renewed annually; is that correct?

MS. MCKEON:
Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:
And when was that contract signed off?

MS. MCKEON:
I don't -- the exact date, I don't know. From --

LEG. D'AMARO:
All right. So you're in --

MS. MCKEON:
We have to submit those --

LEG. D'AMARO:
Right.

MS. MCKEON:
-- pretty early on.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Well, the reason why I asked that question is you're saying that there's a dispute over -- the apparent delay of funding is over a clarification needed on what purposes you're spending for, is that what you're saying?

MS. MCKEON:
We don't know why the advances haven't hit. We have no contact to tell us why that is.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Okay. So --

MS. MCKEON:
No one could give you an answer from this County.

LEG. D'AMARO:
So your contract's in place. The Youth Organization is continuing to provide its services.

MS. MCKEON:
Absolutely.

LEG. D'AMARO:
How under that contract do you then get paid? How do you get the advance from the County?

MS. MCKEON:
That goes through Audit and Control, which I guess has to wait until Mr. Sabatino or --

LEG. D'AMARO:
No, I mean on your end, though. In other words, you're ultimately going to pass the funding down to the agency.

MS. MCKEON:
Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Now, do you need to submit paperwork to the County after the contract is signed in order to get the funding?

MS. MCKEON:
No, not for the single disbursement. On member items you have to do that, but on single disbursement, the money goes right to the Town of Babylon Comptroller.

LEG. D'AMARO:
So, in other words, the contract is signed off and there's no further action required by the Town of Babylon --

MS. MCKEON:
No, there is not.

LEG. D'AMARO:
-- in order to get the funding sent down from the County to the Town.

MS. MCKEON:
That's correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:
And that is the payment, the single disbursement, as you say, so it's not a voucher system under that particular contract.

MS. MCKEON:
Not on single disbursement, it's not a voucher system.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Is that how all of the agencies in the Town of Babylon are set up with respect to the County; are they all single disbursement.

MS. MCKEON:
The only things that are voucher are member items or omnibus, things that the Legislators actually award directly, like my Youth Court. I have a Youth Court in the Town of Babylon, so that is --

LEG. D'AMARO:
Right.

MS. MCKEON:
That's a direct member item from Legislator Horsley.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Right.

MS. MCKEON:
That I have to vouch for.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Right.

MS. MCKEON:
That advance I got in May for that program.

LEG. D'AMARO:
When is the last time an inquiry came from your group to the County asking, "Hey, where's our money?"

MS. MCKEON:
We do that on a regular basis.

LEG. D'AMARO:
On a regular basis? And what response do you get?

MS. MCKEON:
They don't know. It's coming. Mr. Sabatino had told us that there were problems with the computers. Legislator D'Amaro, it is a serious problem. The funding stream has to be smoother than it is. And also, considering how much paperwork that we're all required to submit, all of these questions are really sitting somewhere in Mr. Levy's domain with all the answers on it. We have to sign disclosure forms, we have to submit our audits, our financials. I can't tell you the inordinate amount of paperwork, and that's if you're getting $500 or $500,000. There's no -- there's no rhyme or reason. It doesn't matter what we're getting. When I tell you thirty-nine signatures had to be notarized, that's outrageous.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Right. Well, as a former user of the Deer Park Youth Center, I share your pain, back in my day. However, I have one more question. Last year, did you experience the same problem, and how long did it take you to get the funding?

MS. MCKEON:
Yes. Last year, we -- the Town of Babylon advance was received, I believe it was October, the first advance. They usually do advances in stages, but we didn't get the first one until we were ten months into the year. And when I asked Mr. Sabatino that at this open forum that we had, how could you even call it an advance if we don't get it -- we should have that by January 31. My centers are given an advance from the Town of Babylon. January 31st they have their annual advance. We voucher for it to the Town and they get their money, because I don't know how anybody thinks they're going to pay their rent, their bills, their employees. They can't do it, they cannot operate without that, so we take care of them.

With Wyandanch Youth Center, we had to give them a larger advance from the Town, because most of their money comes from the County. So because they didn't get their money until April or May, I'm not exaggerating when I say their doors would have been locked. And in the Wyandanch community, that is a very necessary facility. We have a lot of issues up there, and we all know that.

So for us, we're very happy to have this opportunity to speak to you, because we really need your help. We need the help from this body to get the money stream flowing.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:
Thank you.

MS. MCKEON:
You're welcome.

MR. MONTANO:
Bill.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Oh, I'm sorry. Legislator Montano wanted to ask a question.

LEG. MONTANO:
Good morning.

MS. MCKEON:
Good morning.

MR. MONTANO:
I'm sorry. I may have to repeat some of the questions that you answered, because I had to step out for a quick second.

MS. MCKEON:
Okay.

MR. MONTANO:
First of all, your name and --

MS. MCKEON:
Claire McKeon, I'm with the Town of Babylon Youth Bureau.

LEG. MONTANO:
You're the Director of the Youth Bureau.

MS. MCKEON:
The Deputy Director.

MR. MONTANO:
Okay. Getting back to the contracts, you said -- how many youth centers do you -- youth programs do you run in the Town of Babylon?

MS. MCKEON:
We have nine youth centers.

MR. MONTANO:
And they all flow through your department?

MS. MCKEON:
Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
Now, these programs, when you contract, do they contract individually with your agency, or do they contract with the Town of -- with the County of Suffolk? And what's the process, so I understand it?

MS. MCKEON:
They have County contracts and they also contract with the Town of Babylon. They contract with us to provide the services to the youth of the community.

MR. MONTANO:
The money that they receive, does that go through your agency --

MS. MCKEON:
Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
-- or is that directly from the County to the agency?

MS. MCKEON:
With the exception -- they all get money through us, as we're -- it's a single disbursement setup. Wyandanch Youth Services has a direct, because it's State money through the County. The County's a conduit for the State for Wyandanch. They get a different --

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
-- funding stream than the rest of them do.

MR. MONTANO:
But the money that the County provides goes through the Town and then to the agency?

MS. MCKEON:
Absolutely.

LEG. MONTANO:
The contract that's executed, is the contract executed between the County and the Town, or the County and the agency, or both?

MS. MCKEON:
The County and the Town. The agencies submit their needs to us, their contracts, we submit the contracts to the County.

LEG. MONTANO:
When did you sign -- how long have you been doing this? How long has this system been in place?

MS. MCKEON:
Thirty years.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. And in terms of your contracts, you say that you're already in contract with the County, the County has already executed the contracts --

MS. MCKEON:
Yes.

MR. MONTANO:
-- to run these programs? Do you know when that, more or less, was -- when those contracts were, more or less, executed?

MS. MCKEON:
The beginning of the year.

LEG. MONTANO:
All right. And since the beginning of the year, you have not received any advances?

MS. MCKEON:
The Town of Babylon has not received its County advance for Youth Services for the Year 2007.

LEG. MONTANO:
Now, in the past, is that the same system, or has this changed this year?

MS. MCKEON:
The system changed when Mr. Sabatino was put in charge of contract agencies.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
Is that clear enough?

LEG. MONTANO:
Yeah. Oh, it's very clear. I think a lot of things changed at that point, but I just want to -- the agencies have submitted vouchers to your -- to the Town for reimbursement; is that accurate?

MS. MCKEON:
That's correct.

MR. MONTANO:
And none of these have -- where have these gone?

MS. MCKEON:
Well, we've been -- we pay their vouchers. They submit their vouchers to us, we screen them, we kick out things that we don't think should be paid, we do the whole process, they go to the Town of Babylon Comptroller's Office where they are again screened.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
And then those -- they cut the checks right out of the Town of Babylon Comptroller's Office. So the Town, in essence, has been floating a loan to Suffolk County for eight months.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. So then the process would be for the Town to send the vouchers -- once you pay them, you would send the voucher to the County for reimbursement; is that correct?

MS. MCKEON:
No, the single disbursement system doesn't work that way.

MR. MONTANO:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
The contract, by virtue of the contract is how the money gets disbursed. Only the member items do we vouch directly to the County, like my Youth Court money.

LEG. MONTANO:
Once you pay -- once you pay for the -- once you pay the vouchers with your money, how do you get reimbursed from the County?

MS. MCKEON:
They single disburse to the Town of Babylon. Their contract is a direct payment to the Town of Babylon to cover the nine youth centers for the County's share of the nine youth centers.

LEG. MONTANO:
And when does that -- when is that money supposed to come in, then? In other words, what you're -- what I'm getting from this, and I don't understand the process fully, but what I'm getting is once you sign the contract for "X" amount of dollars, you're supposed to receive "X" amount of dollars so you can run the programs.

MS. MCKEON:
I should at least get an advance on the "X" amount of dollars --

MR. MONTANO:
The advance represents how much --

MS. MCKEON:
-- in the first quarter of the year.

LEG. MONTANO:
I'm sorry. Say that again.

MS. MCKEON:
By the first quarter of the year, we should have the first advance payment.

MR. MONTANO:
And how much --

MS. MCKEON:
They usually do two.

LEG. MONTANO:
The advance covers how much of the total grant; is it 25%, 50%?

MS. MCKEON:
About 25% --

MR. MONTANO:
So you should get 25 --

MS. MCKEON:
-- for the first advance.

LEG. MONTANO:
You should get 25% in the first advance. When do you get -- it's not really an advance, because, in reality, you've signed contracts, so you should be getting the money to disburse; am I correct in that?

MS. MCKEON:
Well, the system is set up as an advance system, that's how they do it.

LEG. MONTANO:
All right. So then when do you get your second advance?

MS. MCKEON:
Well, that's questionable, because I haven't gotten my first one yet. It really depends on --

MS. MCKEON:
In the normal scheme of things.

MS. MCKEON:
In the normal scheme of things? We should have gotten our first advance by March, the latest. The second advance would be coming now to cover the rest of the year.

LEG. MONTANO:
So, essentially, you should be getting advances in quarters --

MS. MCKEON:
Yes.

MR. MONTANO:
First quarter, second quarter, is that more or less the way it's worked?

MS. MCKEON:
Yes. I would say that's how it should work, yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. And you haven't received anything up to date?

MS. MCKEON:
The Town of Babylon has not received its 2007 advance for Youth Services.

LEG. MONTANO:
And how much does that total? What kind of money are we talking about here?

MS. MCKEON:
Twenty-five percent of a half a million dollars.

LEG. MONTANO:
Half a million dollars? Your contract is for half a million dollars, 500,000?

MS. MCKEON:
I don't have the exact figures in front of me, but --

LEG. MONTANO:
I won't hold you to it, but it's more or less how much?

MS. MCKEON:
It's a lot of money.

LEG. MONTANO:
What's "a lot"?

P.O. LINDSAY:
Half a million dollars.

MS. MCKEON:

I really -- I don't have the exact figures in front me, so --

LEG. MONTANO:
No, I'm serious. Is it running about half a million dollars or more?

MS. MCKEON:
From the County? No, probably about a quarter.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. Thank you.

MS. MCKEON:
You're welcome.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Can I ask a question?

P.O. LINDSAY:
Sure. Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Do you know what the contract provides as far as getting payment, if you know? I don't want you to guess.

MS. MCKEON:
I don't have -- off the top of my head, I don't want to wing that.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
I really don't know.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Okay. We can find out.

MS. MCKEON:
I know that we never had this problem in 30 years that we've been having in the last two or three years.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
It's serious.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Okay. We can find out. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And I just have one last question. So the way the system should work is it's a joint program between the Town and the County, and the Town administers the program, we're supposed to give you advances for our portion of it, you guys actually do all the administration.

MS. MCKEON:
Correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:
I mean, from paying the bills to looking over things. So we really shouldn't have any -- I mean, on what basis is Mr. Sabatino delaying the payment --

MS. MCKEON:
Well, I asked that.

P.O. LINDSAY:
-- if we don't have any -- and what is there, a final audit at the end of the year of the whole program? Does the County audit the program or is it left entirely to the Town?

MS. MCKEON:
The County -- we do records checks on the centers. Actually, not we. I go out to the centers annually. I check their cancelled checks, their bank statements.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
I do a complete audit. The County does that on direct member items. They send out their Youth Bureau people. Len Bianco will come out to the sites and check --

P.O. LINDSAY:
But not in this program.

MS. MCKEON:
Not in the single disbursement program, no.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
That would be difficult.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So you guys do all the admin. So, again, my question is on what basis is the payments delayed then?

MS. MCKEON:
Well, when I asked Mr. Sabatino that at that open forum, he said they had to know that these centers were actually doing what they said they were doing. So I said, "Well, if they don't have any money to do anything, then how are they doing what you think they're doing? You're not giving them the funding." And I said, "And, quite frankly, most or all of our centers have been in existence for 25 years plus.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Not only that --

MS. MCKEON:
So how much more do they have to prove that they operate?

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MR. MONTANO:

Bill, I'll just follow up.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:
Yeah. We're just trying to get a better handle on this. With respect to the contracts, once you've signed contract with the County, and aside from getting the advance, why do you go back to Mr. Sabatino for the advance? I'm not sure that he's responsible for the advance, he's responsible for signing the contract.

MS. MCKEON:
Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
Once you have a duly executed contract, I think that's more a function of the Comptroller's Office to release the money, so I'm not sure where this back and forth with Mr. Sabatino is going or why it's even necessary. Can you explain that to me?

MS. MCKEON:
Well, I can't say what goes on in Mr. Sabatino's office. He can sign every contract that he has in front of him, but if he doesn't submit them for process, then they don't get processed. I don't know how Audit --

MR. MONTANO:
Okay.

MS. MCKEON:
Audit and Control has to actually have a duly certified contract that's executed properly. They have to go through -- so I'm sure the attorneys --

MR. MONTANO:
Well let me ask you this.

MS. MCKEON:
-- have to see all the contracts.

LEG. MONTANO:
In prior years, once the contract was signed, how was your money -- you know, where did your money come from and in how long a period of time?

MS. MCKEON:
We would -- we get our checks, I'm sure, from Audit and Control. They process it and cut the checks out of the Comptroller's Office. They should -- we used to get them in the early part of the year.

LEG. MONTANO:
Now, what I'm asking, once you got your contract signed, this year, for instance, when you didn't get money, did you reach out or did you speak with someone from the Comptroller's Office to ask why the advance wasn't coming?

MS. MCKEON:
What we do is speak to the Suffolk County Youth Bureau and they don't -- they don't have an answer either.

MR. MONTANO:
Oh, okay. So that's in the County Exec's Department.

MS. MCKEON:
Yeah.

MR. MONTANO:
So, when you've had problems collecting -- when you've had problems collecting in the past, you would deal with the Youth Bureau?

MS. MCKEON:
That's pretty much the chain.

MR. MONTANO:
I got you.

MS. MCKEON:
We kind of follow -- so, when the youth centers have an issue, they come to us, then we go to them, then they're supposed to deal with that. The Youth Bureau in the County should be the ones looking to see why the funding hasn't been released.

MR. MONTANO:
All right. And they weren't able to provide you answers as to why you didn't get your advances this year?

MS. MCKEON:
No, we have not received an answer on that.

MR. MONTANO:
All right. Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:
Any other questions? Thanks a lot for coming down.

MS. MCKEON:
Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:
It's been very informative. Thank you.

MS. MCKEON:
Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:
Next up, we have Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth Group. And, David, I think you were here for the explanation, so I'm not going to give the explanation again why we formed this subcommittee. So whenever you're settled in, just go right into a brief description of your agency, programs, what population you serve, and what geographical area. Good morning.

MR. KILMNICK:
Good morning. And I read Suffolk Life last night, so I understand.

LEG. ALDEN:
Where some of the criticism might be coming from, okay.

MR. KILMNICK:

Good morning. And especially after hearing what I'm hearing this morning and reading Suffolk Life, we really appreciate, you know, the Legislature taking on this task. It's real, real important. And later on, I mean, I could talk about the delay in our contract, to give you an idea as well, and how it's gotten progressively worse over the last couple of years.

Our agency -- my name is David Kilmnick. I'm the Executive Director, and also one of the founders of Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth, and we are located in Bay Shore. We have our community center on Park Avenue in Bay Shore, but we serve the entire county. We are currently searching for a space and opening up a second office on the eastern end of Long Island as well, somewhere probably in Westhampton or Southampton. We provide a wide range of education, advocacy and support services to the County's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth. Our County-funded program include our community education and training program, which I'll give you some stats on a little bit later, and also our Safe Choices Program, which is marketed to the youth as Club LIGALY, because they wouldn't come to anything called Safe Choices, and that is on a Friday night support program.

We have many other programs, and I brought some people with us here today, so you didn't have to hear my voice all that -- the whole entire time. And I brought James Fallarino, who's our Director of Youth Services. And James actually is a youth who grew up with LIGALY and now went away to school, got his Bachelor's Degree, came back, and now in a couple of years is now our Director of Youth Services, so we're very glad that we have our hometown --

LEG. ALDEN:
Just so for the record, could you just spell your last name?

MR. FALLARINO:
Sure. It's F, as in Frank, A-L-L -- I think we got it already -- A-R-I-N-O. So you had it, right?

LEG. ALDEN:
Got that?

MS. BRAATEN:
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay, thanks.

MR. KILMNICK:
Okay. And then we also have Dawn Shedrick, who's our Director of Community Services, and then we have two of our youth leaders here today, Francine and Sioban, who will address the question, what would happen if the County cut the funding. You know, I think it was better to hear it from them as to what other services -- the services mean to them. So I'm just going to turn it over to James to just talk a little bit more about the services in terms of what your department provides.

MR. FALLARINO:
So the Youth Services Department of LIGALY provides a variety of different programs to address the social and support needs of the youth who we provide programs to, 13 to 21, from across Long Island. But the largest bulk of our youth come from Suffolk County. That includes, in the social and recreational ends, our Friday night youth social program, which is funded by the County, called LIGALY or Safe Choices, and that program gets anywhere between 50 and 80 young people every Friday night down to our center. We've been doing it since 1997, and it provides a safe space for young people to come down, meet other people, other young people who share their experiences, be provided with positive outlets for self expression through various arts and cultural programs that we do, and I'll talk about those in a moment. And it's just a really wonderful program that, as David said, I took advantage of when I was a youth and now youth continue to take advantage of today.

As I said, we also provide arts and cultural programs as on outlet for positive self expression. We have a dance troupe called the LIGALY Pride Dancers. Every year we do an annual singing competition called Long Island Out Idol. We jumped on that bandwagon. We also do poetry slam competitions, art shows, just a variety of opportunities for young people to express themselves in positive ways.

We have a very large education program, which works with over ninety school districts here on Long Island, again, many of them in Suffolk County. And that's the basis of our -- of where the agency started, as a workshop to educate the community about the experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender young people. So we go into schools and work with students from Grades 5 through 12, talking about harassment and bullying, and the experiences of GLBT to young people. We also do training with faculty and staff about their role in the school environment to address bullying and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

We work with students to develop their leadership skills through two programs, one called the Long Island Gay Straight Alliance Network, which works with students in schools to create safer schools through student organizations called the Gay Straight Alliance Clubs. We also at our center have a program called the Safe Schools Team, which Sioban and Francine part of, which provides young people with an additional opportunity to develop their leadership skills, plan programming for students in schools, such as our National Coming Out Day School Awareness Campaign, which happens every October, and over 20,000 students across Long Island participate in that campaign. They present at our conference each year, and they're going to talk more about there, so I'll kind of leave it at that. I think that --

MR. KILMNICK:
Just to -- one of our projects, which James briefly mentioned, are Long Island Gay Straight Alliance Network has grown to be the second largest in the country networks, which surprises many people when we say it's here on Long Island, because many people would think it's in major urban areas. And there are 53 schools on Long Island that have Gay Straight Alliance clubs within their high school, a little bit more than half of that in Suffolk County, and the only larger Gay Straight Alliance Network in the country is the State of California. So we're very proud to have the second largest Gay Straight Alliance Network in the country right here, right here on Long Island.

We're also -- we bring Suffolk County's voice for our programs to the national level, we're part of the National Gay Straight Alliance Network to the State level, we're part of the New York State Lesbian and Gay -- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health and Human Services Network, in addition to about a dozen other coalitions as well. So, Dawn.

MS. SHEDRICK:
Good morning. As David mentioned, my name is Dawn Shedrick, and I'm the Director of Community Services at Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth. And my department, I mean, we work very closely with the Youth Services Department. Our agency has grown to provide services to GLBT people across the lifespan. We provide mental health services. Most -- many of our youth access our mental health services. And we work very closely with Youth Services in that a lot of times Club LIGALY/Safe Choices is a point of entry for a lot of youth to get hooked up with the organization. And the staff, the volunteers who work with the youth programs, when they recognize that there is a youth who is in need of additional support, additional services or advocacy, then that's when we case conference to pretty much come up with a plan that's going to meet the needs for the youth on an individual basis. We provide individual, family and group counseling. We have support groups that run weekly throughout the center that are all very well attended.

I also -- I am a licensed social worker, so in addition to program management, I also do provide direct services. I case conference and advocate with school personnel, other mental health providers that a youth or a family member may be involved with. I also case conference with health care providers, often to ensure that the needs of an LGBT youth are being met in the mainstream health care system. We also have an anti-violence project where we provide education and support

around violence in the GLBT community. We also do education about violence in the GLBT community, in schools, health and human service providers, government agencies. We have a transgender services program where we education, and also have the only transgender support program, full service program on Long Island, we provide support groups, and we also provide education about gender identity.

We have a crystal methamphetamine project where we provide outreach and education around crystal methamphetamine use and addiction in the GLBT community, and substance abuse in general in the GLBT community. And we conduct cultural competency trainings with substance abuse professionals on Long Island about the dynamics, not only of crystal methamphetamine use, but of substance abuse within the GLBT community.

When we first received funding for the crystal meth project, we consulted with service providers in New York City who had existing programs, and what we were told was by every provider that I spoke with, at least ten providers, that they actually had people who were commuting from Long Island to receive services in New York City, because they didn't feel comfortable discussing their sexuality or their gender identity with a lot of service providers on Long Island, particularly in a group support setting.

MR. KILMNICK:
Okay. Just to give you some -- I mean, we have folders for each of you as well, which give you, you know, full detailed descriptions of all of our programs and how many people we served in the last year, in 2006, and so I -- we have those packets for you that we can give to you. But just for the County funded program, so far this year in 2007, of which we receive $117,196 from the County for this -- for these programs, we have thusfar served thirteen hundred people this year alone in 2007 through our Safe Choices Club LIGALY Program. Sixty-one percent are female, 39% are male, and that is very different from every other agency that is similar to ours in the country. And so, in terms, of race ethnicity, $51 are white and 49% are youth of color. And in terms of age, the greatest age group that we serve, about 50% fall between the ages of 15 and 17, although our services do help people between 13 and 21.

And in recent years, we're having many parents come to us first of children who are under the age of 13 saying, "I think my child, you know, is gay or might be gay, can you help us?" And so we're talking about perhaps starting some sort of 'tween program as well as more and more youth come out at earlier ages, but that doesn't exist right now.

In terms of our community education and training programs, of which this is part of the County funding, so far this year, close to twenty-five hundred youth in Grades 5 to 12, from 20 schools have participated in our workshops, everywhere from Brentwood High School, Center Moriches, Central Islip, East Hampton, East Islip, Hampton Bays, Huntington, John Glenn, Longwood, Northport, Patchogue-Medford, Riverhead, both Sachem campuses, Shoreham-Wading River, Southampton, Southold, West Islip, Westhampton and William Floyd. In addition to that, more than 250 educators and school personnel have also been part of workshops that we've done for them, including the Brentwood District, Westhampton, Sachem, Commack, LIU, Stony Brook, and a collaborative program of Lindenhurst, North Babylon, Wyandanch, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

We have ten employees at the agency. We receive -- I don't know if you mind if I just go through the questions.

LEG. ALDEN:
Good, that's good.

MR. KILMNICK:
Okay. We receive a total of 580,000 in Federal, State and Town monies. If you need that broken down, I could give it to you. Thirty-two thousand nine hundred twenty-three Federal, $537,097 State, and $10,000 Town through the Islip CDA.

In terms of our funding by the percentages, we are -- 56% percent of our budget, which is approximately 1.1 million dollars, is through government grants, 17% through private grants, 23% through fund-raising, and I'll give you those figures in a second, and 4% through program revenue. So we have gone from a couple of years ago as an organization, where we were a little bit over 80% in terms of government grants, down to in just a couple of years while our budget has almost doubled, and so we think that's the sign of a very healthy organization, being able to bring in a diverse revenue streams.

In terms of our fund-raising, we think it's real important to fund-raise, and so that we could continue to expand our programs across the entire County. I mean, I'll speak to this a little bit later. I think that sometimes we're made to feel like we're going to be penalized if we fund-raise. And, however, you know, it's real important to do that, and last year we brought in almost identical to what the County gives us, 116,322 in our fund-raising events, and we're anticipating, you know, certainly increasing that, hopefully doubling that next year. We have development staff as well, that we made a commitment as an organization to have a Development Director, so that, you know, we can garner more support.

In terms of our administrative expenses, there's 17.6%, according to our last audit. And no, I do not make 20% of the agency's budget, so -- and then I want to give a chance also for Sioban and Francine to talk as well.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator Nowick has a question.

LEG. NOWICK:
Yeah. Could you just tell us, please, your budget, your yearly budget?

MR. KILMNICK:
Is 1.1 million.

LEG. NOWICK:
1.1 million. And no -- fund-raising doesn't affect the grants, that's wonderful. It's great that you do that.

MR. KILMNICK:
Yeah, yeah. You know, when we have to -- and I think this came from the -- I think, as the previous speakers have said, we've had all these new forms to fill out over the past couple of years. And I know that when we -- and some of them are from the Suffolk County Comptroller's Office that I guess are directed through the Executive's Office, and they ask how much -- you know, "Does the County fund for this program," and then, "How much do you fund-raise?" And we were told by someone, because they're looking to see where they can cut. You know, if you fund-raise, why do we need to give that to you, and so --

LEG. NOWICK:
Well, that doesn't give you much incentive to fund-raise, does it?

MR. KILMNICK:
No, doesn't give you much incentive to put those figures down on that form. So, you know -- and so it's -- you know, so we addressed that at the meeting. I was at that meeting with Paul Sabatino in which we really did not get answers. In fact, one of my concerns at that meeting was, you know, how quickly are our contracts going to be executed, because, in 2006, you know, you guys passed the budget the day after Election Day and then they draw up the letters and we get the paperwork back, we send it back. We send it back almost right away. And then in 2006, we had until toward the end of April to get our executed contract back, which means we cannot receive an advance, we cannot voucher for money. This year, in 2007, it didn't come until the end of May, when I thought it

would come earlier, because we had this meeting and we had expressed our concerns and it didn't, and it made us -- it forced us to have to go out to get a line of credit for the organization.

LEG. NOWICK:
Well, I know that now you feel much better knowing that you haven't been singled out, right?

MR. KILMNICK:
Oh, God, no, I know we haven't been, yeah.

LEG. NOWICK:
You're feeling better now, now that you don't get your money, right?

MR. KILMNICK:
Yeah. So, I mean, but we did get the executed contract the end of May and then we were able to --

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay, so --

MR. KILMNICK:
-- voucher for that.

P.O. LINDSAY:
You have your paperwork in for the contracts.

MR. KILMNICK:
Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Before the end of November, is that right, or before --

MR. KILMNICK:
No, as soon as we get it from the County.

P.O. LINDSAY:
When do you get the initial paperwork after we pass the budget?

MR. KILMNICK:
In December sometime.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. And the turnaround on your end is?

MR. KILMNICK:
Within a week or two.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Within a week or two.

MR. KILMNICK:
Yep.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Then this year you didn't get a signed contract until May.

MR. KILMNICK:
Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. When did you get any money?

MR. KILMNICK:
Beginning of June.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Beginning of June.

MR. KILMNICK:
Then sent -- you know, when we had the executed contract, we were able then to -- oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, towards the end of June, because we were able then to submit a voucher. We weren't able to submit a voucher until we had an executed contract.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MR. KILMNICK:
Otherwise, after that, payment is rather quick, but getting our executed contract does take awhile. It's not as quick as it used to be, but it's --

P.O. LINDSAY:
What did it cost you for the loan you took to keep operating?

MR. KILMNICK:
Say that again, I'm sorry.

P.O. CARACAPPA:
You said you had to take a line of credit in order to keep operating.

MR. KILMNICK:
Yes, we had to take -- we took out a $50,000 line of credit.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And what did it cost you in interest on that because we didn't pay our bills?

MR. KILMNICK:
It -- the interest rate, I believe, was 7%.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. Anybody else?

LEG. ALDEN:
Now, is that a reimbursable expense?

MR. KILMNICK:
No.

LEG. ALDEN:
See.

MR. KILMNICK:
In fact, if I could add something about that, when we -- we purchased our building in Bay Shore, and before that, we used to rent a walkup, a second floor walkup space on Main Street and rent was a reimbursable expense. Then, when we moved to our building and said, "Okay, we're running our

programs here," and we were told that we couldn't put part of our mortgage into that as a reimbursable expense. Now, we went from a 2,000 square foot space to a -- to a forty-five hundred square foot space in which -- you know, the reason why we bought the building is to be more prudent and as an organization, and certainly, I mean, besides someone left us some money to do that purpose, you know, we still have a mortgage. It certainly would have saved us, and it did save us, about $3,000 a month in what it would have cost us to rent the space. So what we were told at that particular time was, if you're renting from someone else, you could request that, it's a reimbursable expense. So, you know, our mortgage, say, is twenty-five hundred dollars a month; won't pay that, but the County will pay fifty-five hundred dollars a month to someone else for us to rent the space instead. And that, you know, was quite disturbing, and we didn't even, you know, pursue it after that, because it's just difficult to do so.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. Just a couple of wrap-up questions. Are you aware of any other agencies that provide similar services to the same population in Suffolk County?

MR. KILMNICK:
No, there are none.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MR. KILMNICK:
And if I could just have, because we made them get up early from a sleep-over party, Francine and Sioban, if they --

P.O. LINDSAY:
Before we do that --

MR. KILMNICK:
Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:
-- let me just ask one last question.

MR. KILMNICK:
Sure.

P.O. LINDSAY:
What would be the consequences of not receiving County funding?

MR. KILMNICK:
The consequences would be -- would be great. I mean, you know, we're the only ones that provide this service in the County, in terms of providing a safe space, in terms of providing to GLBT youth, but also to health and human service providers, to educators, in terms of providing them the training and the necessary tools to do that. So we would greatly have to cut our services, especially our Friday night program, which --

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. But in looking at your overall budget of a million dollars plus, and we're only providing about 10% of it, would it be fair to say that you'd have to cut back on some of your program, it wouldn't put you out of business?

MR. KILMNICK:
No, it wouldn't put us out of business, but it would shut down our Friday night program, which is

extremely important.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay, girls.

MS. EARECKSON:
I'm Sioban.

P.O. LINDSAY:
I'm not sure whether --

MS. SIOBAN:
I'm Sioban, I'm 15, and I'm going to be a Junior -- I'm 16, and I'm going to be a Junior at West Babylon Senior High School.

MS. ALOGNA:
I'm Francine. I don't think this is on.

LEG. ALDEN:
It's on.

P.O. LINDSAY:
It's on.

LEG. ALDEN:
You've got to get up real close.

MS. FRANCINE:
My name is Francine Alogna, I'm 18 years old, and I just graduated from Lindenhurst Senior High School.

MS. EARECKSON:
LIGALY is really important to us, because it gives us a safe space where we can hang out and be ourselves without worrying about people making fun of us or anything, because that's what happens when you hang out with people in school.

MS. ALOGNA:
When we go to LIGALY, we're provided with a safe environment with our own peers and with the staff that's there. The staff has actually become like family to us, because we're there so much.

MS. EARECKSON:
James before touched on all the youth programs that LIGALY does, and we're actually members of all of those program. We're on the Safe Schools Team. We do --

MS. ALOGNA:
We do the Youth Advisory Board.

MS. EARECKSON:
We're on the LIGALY Pride Dancers.

MS. ALOGNA:
We do Prom Committee.

MS. EARECKSON:
I did LIGALY Idol.

MS. ALOGNA:
And we do so much more there.

MS. EARECKSON:
So cutting back on the programs would really put a damper on our social life.

MS. ALOGNA:
It really would and -- but the most important program at LIGALY is definitely Club LIGALY, which is the Friday night program. It's like -- sorry. Club LIGALY has built so many of my friendships, like I meet really cool peers like myself and Sioban that we just hang out and that's a really safe space for us on Friday nights. Thanks to LIGALY, we're not involved with like the wrong crowds on the streets, doing like God knows what on a Friday night. We're at LIGALY and we're safe, and we feel safe.

MS. EARECKSON:
Like just an example, like we volunteer for LIGALY and LIGALY does conferences and we always do those. And recently, we did the National Youth Conference in New Mexico, and we went to Albany and we did the -- you did the college thing.

MS. ALOGNA:
Yeah. Also, with being part of the Safe Schools Team, we also go into high schools around Long Island, all the ones that David mentioned actually, and we do networking events, where we network with other GSA's on Long Island, and we also did the LIGALY Conference at Hofstra.

MS. EARECKSON:
So legally is really important to us.

LEG. ALDEN:
You do know you put a lot of pressure on our stenographer, because that passing the mike back and forth, she's got to take everything down verbatim and put who -- you know, attributed this comment to this one, so she's -- but, thank goodness, she's a consummate professional.

MS. ALOGNA:
Sorry.

MS. EARECKSON:
We're sorry.

MR. KILMNICK:
Okay. I also -- oh, I'm sorry. Are you done?

MS. EARECKSON:
I think that was it.

MR. KILMNICK:
I just want to also just, you know, I know that we've taken up a lot of time here, is in the packets, you will see, and Dawn eluded to this, our organization has been working for four years now in developing a model to serve the entire gay and lesbian community throughout the lifespan. And, you know, one of the things that certainly United Way and Newsday has focused in on is the challenges of nonprofits here on Long Island, and so -- you know, and saying that we should look at mergers, we should look at collaborations, and etcetera. And so what we have done is we've created an innovative model that will help to serve our community throughout their lifespan.

There are two other organizations, one called the Long Island GLBT Community Center, and one called SAGE, Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders, which is going to provide services to seniors. And, in fact, we've done focus groups over the past couple of years with more than 100 Suffolk

County GLBT seniors and that program is going to be huge. So just so that you have an understanding of that, that is in the packet. And we have a little bit over 100 volunteers at the organization also, I didn't get to say that as well, throughout the year.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Well, I thank you all for coming, and it was very informative for all of us about your program. Thank you very much.

MR. KILMNICK:
Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:
Thanks for getting up early, girls.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Lindenhurst Youth Services Board. Just have a seat, make yourself at home. Kathie Skopek.

MS. SKOPEK:
Yes. I'm Kathie Skopek. I'm the Director of the Lindenhurst Youth Services Board, also known as Lindenhurst --

P.O. LINDSAY:
Kathie, you have to talk into the mike.

MS. SKOPEK:
Oh, I'm sorry.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yeah, there you go.

MS. SKOPEK:
Sorry.

P.O. LINDSAY:
That's all right, that's okay.

MS. SKOPEK:
I'm Kathie Skopek from the Lindenhurst Youth Services Board, which is also known as the Lindenhurst Youth Center. I'd like to introduce our Board President, Gordon Werner.

MR. WERNER:
Gordon Werner from the Lindenhurst Youth Center, Chairman of the Board.

MS. SKOPEK:
We are also one of the contract agencies that Claire McKeon has spoken about.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So again, you don't contract directly with the County, it's through the Town of Babylon?

MS. SKOPEK:
Correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. SKOPEK:
I'd like to give you a description of the youth center and its programs, which I'm very proud of and very happy to be telling the County about. And I'd also like to invite anybody from the County to come to our program to see it in action.

I've been in Youth Services for 29 years, 20 years with the Lindenhurst Youth Center. Gordon has been involved with the Youth Center for 27 years. We're a community-based not-for-profit organization in Lindenhurst, which started in 1973. We draw kids also from our geographic boundaries, which is North Lindenhurst, West Babylon and Copiague. We have kids involved in some programs from the ages of 8 to 18, but our main focus right now is the Middle School population. We are very close to the middle school in Lindenhurst, and we are close to the main road in Lindenhurst, which is Wellwood Avenue, so it makes easy access for those kids and easy access for us to do outreach.

The kids are mainly from single parents, or both parents are working, so they're left with a lot of leisure time with not a lot of supervision and not a lot to do. We are open -- the main program consists of a building in which we have an area that is called the "drop-in". It is open in the summer hours between 12 p.m. and 10 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Fall/Winter, when school -- the school year is. We're open Monday through Friday, 2 to 10, and Saturdays, 12 to 6.

The drop-in consists of computers, large screen T.V.'s, videos, different sports programs, which we have outside, which we have a big enough area that we are trying to develop into a better area with a better basketball court, but the kids now play whiffle ball, stick ball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, any kind of games with balls and sticks.

MR. WERNER:
That building that we do presently have was purchased and owned by the Lindenhurst Lyon's Club, so it's not a State, County or Village building. It was purchased by the Lindenhurst Lyon's Club because of the same problem that these folks right before us had said that they'll rent you the Taj Mahal, but they will not build you a building for the Youth Center. So, in 1984, we made a deal with the owner of the building, the Lindenhurst Lyon's Club did, to purchase the building, and by renting it to the Lindenhurst Youth Center, because they had had three previous locations, by renting it to the Lindenhurst Youth Center, we were able to pay off the mortgage, use the funds to improve the building, and since there was no owner, per se, private owner that had to take any income out of it, we were always able to donate the money back to the Youth Center for programs that were either cut because of funding, or that they wanted to increase. So that's where the building is from and that's what we use our money for.

Lindenhurst Lyon's Club has since disband and we transferred it to a 501C3 corporation, which is now known as a {SIMBA} corporation, which is chaired by myself and by others on the board or other community members primarily to provide a home for the Lindenhurst Youth Center.

MS. SKOPEK:
Okay. I'd like to continue with the main program, because I just left off and it seems like it's just sports and it's not just about sports. The main attraction, whether the kids admit it or not, is that it is a safe place. It's different than their home, it's different than their school, and it's different than the street. Many times those are the scary places to be.

All of the programs that are run out of the drop-in attract them to the Youth Center, but it is the staff and the other kids who have been there for awhile that keep the kids coming to the Youth Center. It is a place where they learn to care for one another, to respect one another. There are no bullies, there are no prejudicial kind of issues that is accepted, but also no one is forced to come to the Youth Center. It is open that entire time that I told you earlier, that they can come and go. No one is -- no one is made to go by their parents, school, or any other agency. So we definitely pass on definite life skills with constructive positive things to do. It's not perfect. The kids that come there are not perfect. Sometimes they go down wrong roads and we try to help them with that.

And just to let you know, that I sometimes get collect calls from jail from kids trying to help -- get our help with that, but I also recently got a phone call from a college where one of our kids, who spent most of their time at the Youth Center, and she is now a college professor. So we run a gamut of kids that come in. You can see a varsity football player who is, you know, a real sports guy helping out a 12 year old kid who has no kind of sports skill whatsoever. And that's what's great about our program, that the kids help each other, and that the staff really works hard. We make relationships with the kids. We are not supervisors that stand back and just watch it and stop fights, or whatever. We take the kids on field trips, we stay with them on the field trips. We take the kids to the movies, we stay with them in the movies, and afterwards we discuss the movies. So it is not -- I know some organizations do not do that and I wanted to let you know that we're unique in that.

A sketch of our other programs would be -- we also have homework help with the drop-in. We have informal counseling. We have information and referral program. We have arts and crafts programs. We have outreach, which the kids and the staff do, which may be all hours of the day or night, going to the train station or behind the schools where those kind of kids are not interested in being in any kind of program, and we do field trips, as I said, special events. That's basically our program.

P.O. LINDSAY:
How many children do you serve?

MS. SKOPEK:
In 2006, we served 700.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. SKOPEK:
Unduplicated.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. Legislator Nowick has a question.

LEG. NOWICK:
Yes. Thank you for coming. Thank you for coming here this morning. How many employees does your agency have?

MS. SKOPEK:
We have three full-time, including myself, and two part-time. We also have volunteers.

LEG. ALDEN:
About how many?

MS. SKOPEK:
We have about 14 --

LEG. NOWICK:
Fourteen volunteers?

MS. SKOPEK:
-- during the year, plus our Board, which would be another five.

LEG. NOWICK:
Five is your Board.

MS. SKOPEK:
Right.

LEG. NOWICK:
Are you aware of any other agencies that provide similar services?

MS. SKOPEK:
No.

LEG. NOWICK:
No. How much funding do you receive from the County?

MR. WERNER:
One hundred thousand eight hundred and ten dollars.

LEG. NOWICK:
Okay.

MR. WERNER:
Our total budget is $228,239.

LEG. NOWICK:
What is it, two hundred and --

MR. WERNER:
Two hundred twenty-eight-two-thirty-nine.

LEG. NOWICK:
That's your total.

MR. WERNER:
Correct.

LEG. NOWICK:
And would there be a particular program that would be cancelled if the County did not give you the funding.

MR. WERNER:
We'd shut down. We would shut down.

LEG. NOWICK:
You would shut down.

MR. WERNER:
Because we would not -- you would have -- you would not be able to staff the facility adequately, and the -- we would be left with $125,000 to pay all expenses, and one person and a part-time person couldn't run the program that we presently run.

LEG. NOWICK:
Do you receive any other money from any other funding, Federal, State?

MR. WERNER:
Yes. We receive $104,000 from the Town of Babylon, $21,000 from the Village of Lindenhurst.

LEG. NOWICK:
Twenty-one thousand?

MR. WERNER:
Correct.

LEG. NOWICK:
Okay. Do you do fund-raising events?

MR. WERNER:
Minor. We raised about 5,000 to about $7,000. It's not -- you know, we do what we can do. We do a couple of events, and if some of the major people in the Village didn't contribute to the advertising and to contributions, we probably wouldn't raise that amount of money.

LEG. NOWICK:
And, obviously, your CEO does not make more than 20% of the total budget.

MR. WERNER:
No. Our CEO is Kathie here. She's a --

MS. SKOPEK:
Am I considered a CEO?

MR. WERNER:
She's a CEO, she's a youth worker, she's also the one that does all the bookkeeping and all the administrative.

LEG. NOWICK:
Okay, Kathie. I think that completes the questions.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Because Kathie wears so many hats, it's pretty hard to break down what your administrative expenses are?

MR. WERNER:
If you took Kathie's salary, her full salary is $51,000. So, if you took let's say 25% of that as administration, it would be approximately $14,500, give or take.

LEG. NOWICK:
You've got to do that math now, Bill.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Right.

LEG. NOWICK:
Yeah.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Which is about what, 5% in admin, something like that?

MR. WERNER:
Of our whole budget, it's about 5%.

LEG. ALDEN:
Would you consider that your total of admin. costs?

MR. WERNER:
Yes. She's the only -- she's the only one that does all the administration.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And it's the same as the Deer Park Center? In other words, you get your funding directly from the Town.

MR. WERNER:
Correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And the Town is the one that's having the problem getting the money from the County.

MR. WERNER:
Correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So you haven't seen the problem of late payments, you haven't felt that, the Town's certainly feeling it.

MR. WERNER:
No, because we voucher through the Town. But I can tell you, when we did have a problem in years past and we had to voucher through the County, either I would lend the money to the youth center to, you know, make payroll, or the Lyon's Club would fund, you know, put money into it so they could make payroll and then voucher it back.

P.O. LINDSAY:
How many years has this arrangement been made going through the Town?

MS. SKOPEK:
I'm not sure. Claire could answer it.

MS. MCKEON:
Single disbursement that changed in the mid '90's, didn't it?

MR. WERNER:
Yeah.

MS. SKOPEK:
The mid '90's.

MS. MCKEON:
Mid '90's it changed to single disbursement.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. Thank you very much for both coming down and --

MR. WERNER:
Just one closing statement.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Sure thing. As Kathie eluded to, we could open 24 hours, seven days a week and we would have kids in that building. And it's counselors that are requested by the kids in the building to go to graduations, confirmations, birthday parties, and they go.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Thank you.

MR. WERNER:
Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And thank you for the work that you do for our community.

MR. WERNER:
Thank you.

MS. SKOPEK:
Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Brighter Tomorrows. Is Brighter Tomorrows in the room? Aileen Fitz.

MS. FITZ:
Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:
How are you?

MS. FITZ:
Good morning.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Good morning.

MS. FITZ:
I'm Aileen Fitz. I'm the Executive Director of Brighter Tomorrows. Good news for me, I've been in the job for three weeks.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. FITZ:
I find the agency extremely busy, very dedicated workers. It has been around for a long time. I've brought with me two of the employees that will probably be full of a lot more information than I can provide to you. Barbara Watson is our Financial Manager, and Dr. Karen Martin is our Clinical and Program Director.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So, Aileen, you got the job three weeks ago and the first thing they said is to go to the County and explain what you do.

MS. FITZ:
Exactly.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Oh, wonderful.

MS. FITZ:
And guess what, I showed up.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. Would one of you please describe the programs that you run?

DR. MARTIN:
Sure. It's a multi -- we provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and their families. Having said that, part of the comprehensive services -- our organization is basically three tiered, three structures. One is our nonresidential population. That would be women and children living in or have just been removed themselves, mostly with the help of the courts, from a violent family life. Those women and children come into our organization and we provide -- they come into our nonresidential population, and there's a distinction between nonresidential and our shelter, because our shelter is in an undisclosed location for the safety of the women, children and staff that work and live there. Our nonresidential population comes to an office. There are no fees for our services. They -- we provide legal advocacy, sometimes case management when necessary, meaning linking them up with the transportation they might need, with mental health agencies that they might need, with any evaluations that might come down the pike. We also provide group counseling, individual counseling, and it's a therapeutic support group, as well as parenting programs, empowerment programs, relaxation programs, to try and help the women be able to become more emotionally strong and financially self sufficient. By doing that, we link them with different programs.

We have an information and referral component to our nonresidential population, so we're able to provide the linkages that they need to attain whatever it is that they may need, and that could be anywhere from getting a car for transportation, maybe a vocation, getting -- whatever it is that they need.

We also -- and we have legal advocacy that we provide. We're literally -- we're not attorneys, but we have linkages to attorneys that we work with, in particular Nassau-Suffolk Law Services, and a lot of attorneys who do pro bono work for victims of domestic violence. What we do is provide emotional support and information, accurate information, because you could stand up in front of a judge for a ticket and the next guy and have two different results; it worked for you, it didn't work for them. So what we do is we provide accurate information. We kind of walk them through the system, so that they're not standing in the lobby of Central Islip Court alone with the abuser staring at them from across -- their abuser staring at them, which happens a lot.

The Court Officers are wonderful, but they can only do so much, so we provide them with the information. And when they're finished with their court hearing, order of protection, custody hearing, visitation, whatever it is that we help them to obtain, they come out and a lot of times it's like you can't hear, it doesn't process. So we're able to say, "Okay, what did you hear," and really kind of define what, in fact, happened, explain the petitions, explain the do's and don't's. So that's our Legal Advocacy Department. And I have to tell you, that is growing in leaps and bounds. We have gotten to know the courts and attorneys and they're really thankful, and ask -- they call us and request our presence.

P.O. LINDSAY:
How many people do you serve in maybe both the nonresidential as well as the residential program?

DR. MARTIN:
Well, we happen to just -- there's one number kind I -- was kind of striking. From June -- January to July '07, we probably served, oh, my goodness, let's see. So far in our nonresidential was 326 women and 184 children. That's this year. Our transitional houses, which is our third component, which I'll talk -- speak to in a minute, was 14 children and 8 women, and our shelter was 50 children and 41 women. So our nonresidential population --

P.O. LINDSAY:
That's for half year, though.

DR. MARTIN:
Half a year.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So, in terms of contacts over the course of a year, you probably touch 1,000 lives or more?

DR. MARTIN:
Well, in terms of -- in term of people, we -- it's probably more than that. In terms of people, it's more than that. In terms of units of service, it's quadruple that number, because one, we only count that woman once on our stats that we provide to the Department of Social Services and the County, one, but that one woman might receive parenting, counseling, advocacy, shelter, and then go into transitional. That's one lady. So we try very hard not to duplicate our numbers. Part of our services also are hotlines. We provided, just from January to July almost, 700 hotlines that come into us. We have an information and referral service. Already, that's over 3,365. Advocacy was 1,583. Our court accompaniment, 282 times. Counseling, thirteen hundred and thirty-five. Community education 476. So we really -- we're talking about a lot of people.

LEG. ALDEN:
Do you get referrals from Police Precincts and Department of Social Services?

DR. MARTIN:
Yes. Those are only two places that we get them. We also get them from other domestic violence agencies who can't provide the services that we do for a multitude of reasons. And we get them from -- here's the good news. When I started in this business 20-something years ago, the only way that you got referrals was if a case was already in front of the court and bad things were happening. Now, we're getting referrals from Child Protection Service, from the Department of Probation, from DSS, from the Domestic Violence Liaisons at DSS, from the Police Departments, from the courts, from the attorneys, and from the yellow pages, so we're getting inundated.

LEG. ALDEN:
Well, it's good that people are getting referred to you.

DR. MARTIN:
Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:
It's a statement on society, thought, that that need is that great. But, geographically, what areas do you serve?

DR. MARTIN:
Well, our nonresidential population is Brookhaven Town. However, you know that invisible line between Brookhaven and Southampton? No, Riverhead.

LEG. ALDEN:
Riverhead.

DR. MARTIN:
In Riverhead. We are the only agency that provides services to both courts.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay.

DR. MARTIN:
To Riverhead and to Central Islip, given what invisible line somebody in Brookhaven might be living on.

LEG. ALDEN:
Can I take you through a couple of like technical things?

DR. MARTIN:
Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. You have -- Aileen was just hired. How many full-time employees do you have?

MS. FITZ:
Yeah, we have 12 full-time employees and we have 13 part-time employees.

LEG. ALDEN:
Any volunteers?

MS. FITZ:
We do have some.

DR. MARTIN:
This year alone, we had about 46 volunteers.

MS. FITZ:
But what Dr. Martin needs to explain to you is also our residential program, because that is what really makes us unique, so --

LEG. ALDEN:
Can I just come back to that in a second?

MS. FITZ:
Yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:
I want to just knock off some of the --

MS. FITZ:
Oh, go ahead.

LEG. ALDEN:
So are you aware of any other agencies that provide similar services to the same population?

DR. MARTIN:
To the same population in Suffolk County, yes, not to the -- our Brookhaven Town area.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay, good. What's your overall budget?

MS. WATSON:
In '07, it's 1.3 million.

LEG. ALDEN:
1.3?

DR. MARTIN:
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:
How much do you get from the County?

MS. WATSON:
About 85%, 85% of that.

LEG. ALDEN:
So you get over a million dollars?

MS. WATSON:
A little under a million dollars from the County.

LEG. ALDEN:
John, do you have the exact figure on that, or you can get us back in a minute?

MR. ORTIZ:
I only found two contracts with Brighter Tomorrows, totaling about 240,000. I'm not sure --

MS. WATSON:
We have four contracts with Department of Social Services.

MR. ORTIZ:
Are they all listed under Brighter Tomorrows?

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

MR. ORTIZ:
I'll take a look.

LEG. ALDEN:
Good. Do you receive any funding -- and, obviously, the answer to the other questions is what would be the consequence of not receiving County funding? If we're 85%, you don't exist.

MS. MARTIN:
We don't exist, exactly.

LEG. ALDEN:
Not to put words in your mouth, but --

MS. MARTIN:
No.

LEG. ALDEN:
-- how much do you receive from Federal, State or Town?

MS. WATSON:
This year alone, approximately $90,000.

LEG. ALDEN:
Ninety?

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:
And that's from the feds?

MS. WATSON:
Federal.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Could you just use the mike, please?

MS. WATSON:
Sorry. Ninety thousand from Federal.

P.O. LINDSAY:
If I could just stop you for a minute though, the almost a million that you get from the County, isn't a lot of that pass-through money from the State.

MS. WATSON:
I believe so, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:
Do you do any outside fund-raising?

MS. MARTIN:
Yes, we do.

LEG. ALDEN:
And if so, how much, roughly?

DR. MARTIN:
Well, we've just -- we've just started to do -- it's a new administration and we've started to do outside funding -- fund-raising, and hopefully this year, where our goal is about 40,000, and we're hoping to more than double that next year.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. Did you do any in the past?

MS. MARTIN:
Many years ago.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. So, basically, this is just going to be your first year and your target is $40,000?

DR. MARTIN:
Correct. We're hoping to exceed that, but yes.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. And on a percentage basis, how much of your budget goes to admin?

MS. WATSON:
Overall budget or just administrative salaries?

LEG. ALDEN:
Overall.

MS. WATSON:
In '06, it was 61%.

P.O. LINDSAY:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:
John will --

MS. WATSON:
That's with rent and --

LEG. NOWICK:
No, that's not it.

MS. WATSON:
Then it would be 14%. I figured out both numbers.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Fourteen percent.

MS. WATSON:
Yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:
Does the CEO make more than 20% of the agency's total budget?

MS. WATSON:
No, no.

LEG. ALDEN:
I know that's a personal question, Aileen, but they didn't give you the big bucks. No? All right.

MS. FITZ:
No. Dedication, it's from the heart.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. And I interrupted you before, so if you just want to finish.

DR. MARTIN:
One of our most distinctive nonresidential programs that we also rolled into our shelter, as well is our Child Witness to Domestic Violence Program. When I started in this business 20-plus years ago, domestic violence was only the victim, whoever got hurt, the child was secondary. Research and a lot of hard work has clearly indicated that children, even if they're not in the same room, are primary victims. We need to address them as primary victims and we have. So we have a Child Witness Domestic Violence Program, which is dealing -- a specific program that we've developed dealing with the child while simultaneously the parents, the nonabusive parent is in another room at the same time participating in a positive parenting program for families who have been involved with domestic violence. That seems to be a very well requested program.

Our shelter is a 19-bed shelter. It is in an undisclosed location for the reason I previously stated. It fluctuates, but it's usually at capacity or almost to capacity. That is the one program that is not Brookhaven Town specific. Other domestic violence agencies who might be full from here to Nebraska have sent -- women might not be safe where they are, so they get transferred. And we work very well with one another providing safety first for the women and children, then we figure out the logistics later, okay, we do that. The children go to school. There's every program that's offered at nonresidential in this shelter, as well as case management. So they get everything provided for them, food, clothing, transportation. We try and get their medical needs met, whether they have insurance or not. And that program is pretty much a shelter, it's a safe environment that's -- it's community living, but it's -- also, we try and foster independence.

LEG. ALDEN:
Are you licensed or controlled by any other authority, like Department of Corrections?

DR. MARTIN:
No, New York State.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. So you do have a New York State license --

DR. MARTIN:
Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:
-- with which department.

DR. MARTIN:
We're licensed by New York State for domestic violence to maintain --

LEG. ALDEN:
So they would inspect like the unit itself and things --

DR. MARTIN:
Oh, absolutely.

LEG. ALDEN:
And they would audit your program --

DR. MARTIN:
Absolutely.

LEG. ALDEN:
-- to make sure the programs that you're offering and the advice you're offering --

DR. MARTIN:
Absolutely, absolutely. Our third component is the most unique program and that's the Transitional Housing Program. Nobody else in Suffolk County has one. I don't think that there's a Transitional Housing Program in Nassau. I could be wrong about that, but I don't think there is.

We had six transitional houses. Transitional is longer term. Our shelter is 90 days, generally 90 days. With the approval of the Department of Social Services, women can stay there an additional 45 days, but that's because they can't find housing because of the housing conditions on Long Island, which is a whole other issue. Our transitional housing is longer term, it's not permanent and it's not short-term, it's longer term, probably 12 to 15 to 18 months maxed out. Those are private homes that we rent and provide everything that families, women and their children, need to live independently. It gives mom time to, well, A, become mom again and get her family back. It also provides time to get your educational needs, vocational needs, permanent housing, in a relative -- in enough time to be able to do it. The goal of transitional housing is to provide financial and emotional self-sufficiency.

We just in 2007, July of 2007, opened up our seventh transitional house with the assistance of the Honeywell Corporation and another not-for-profit organization called Rebuild Together of Long Island. Saw Brighter Tomorrows, saw that program and said we want in, and took a small little house and just redid the whole thing, and we now have a mom and her two young children in it.

P.O. LINDSAY:

See, before, when we talked to you about outside fund-raising, you misconstrued the question in terms of you're talking about like raising money on a dinner or a cocktail hour, but, I mean, you're getting the private sector to donate in a big way, you know, in terms like Honeywell has assisted you in getting this house. That's outside fund-raising.

DR. MARTIN:
Well, actually, yes, guess we -- I never saw it as fund-raising, I saw that as an in-kind, because --

P.O. LINDSAY:
But whatever, it's --

DR. MARTIN:
Yeah. There was no money that transpired. But, yes, that project was over $20,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Right, right, okay.

DR. MARTIN:
And not only did they fund it, they did the work. They had volunteers come in and rebuild this house. It was incredible.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:
Good morning. We're running late, so I'm going to just go through a couple of quick questions, if -- how long have you been in existence, more or less?

DR. MARTIN:
Brighter Tomorrows, 1986, I believe.

MR. MONTANO:
And how long have you been contracting with the County, since that time?

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

MR. MONTANO:
Okay. So you're not a new agency.

MS. WATSON:
No.

DR. MARTIN:
No.

LEG. MONTANO:
You said you have two contracts with the County, possibly four?

MS. WATSON:
We have four contracts, two are per diem. That's our shelter and our transitional.

LEG. MONTANO:
So those contracts, essentially, you provide services and you get paid for the services on a fee-for-services basis?

MR. WATSON:
Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
Is that part of your overall budget?

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
Do you look at that income as part of your overall budget?

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

MR. MONTANO:
But that's not a grant, that's really for professional services or counseling services that you provide under a contract; am I correct?

MS. WATSON:
We get paid per person for their stay in the shelter or transition.

LEG. MONTANO:
Now, put those two contracts aside, the other two contracts. What are those contracts for, just generally?

MS. WATSON:
One is for our nonresidential program and the other one is for our Domestic Violence Liaison.

MR. MONTANO:
And they're not based on fee for services, they're just more or less contracts to provide general services.

MS. WATSON:
They're line-itemed.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. Those two contracts for 2007 -- and those are repeat contracts over the years that you've had since -- going back to 1997, or whatever?

MS. WATSON:
About '97, yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. Have you signed contracts on those two particular contracts this year?

MS. WATSON:
Yes, we did.

LEG. MONTANO:
Do you have fully executed contracts?

MS. WATSON:
Yes. We did not receive the nonresidential one until the end of May, though.

LEG. MONTANO:
All right. So the other one, when did you get -- you got one at the end of May, a signed contract, and the other contract --

MS. WATSON:
And the Domestic Violence Liaison, probably the beginning of May.

LEG. MONTANO:
All right. So both contracts were issued more or less around May.

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
And advances, when did you -- I assume you got no money prior to the contract from the County.

MS. WATSON:
Not until June.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. And you received advances in June on both of these contracts?

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
And what percentage of the contract amount was the advance, like 10%, 20, 30, if you know?

MS. WATSON:
I don't remember. I know we received 30,000 out of our nonresidential, and that budget was $226,000.

LEG. MONTANO:
I'll let someone else do the math.

MS. WATSON:
Thank you.

MR. MONTANO:
Doesn't sound like a whole lot, though.

MS. WATSON:
No.

LEG. MONTANO:
So how did you finance these programs for the first six months of operation?

MS. WATSON:
Line of credit.

LEG. MONTANO:
Which you took out from the bank?

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:
And what interest rate, more or less?

MS. WATSON:
Approximately 7%.

LEG. MONTANO:
And none of that money, as Legislator Alden said earlier, is reimbursable to your agency.

MS. WATSON:
That's right.

MR. MONTANO:
So, basically, you've lost that money.

MS. WATSON:
Yes.

MR. MONTANO:
Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:
A total waste of energy and money for all of your agencies, and we have somebody to thank for that, facetiously.

MR. MONTANO:
We won't get into that.

LEG. ALDEN:
Nope.

P.O. LINDSAY:
The --

LEG. MONTANO:
I have a question for John.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Go ahead.

MR. MONTANO:
John, yesterday in Suffolk Life, there was a comment by the County Exec saying that the Legislature had added 300 new contracts. All the agencies that have come before us that I know of are renewal contracts that have been in existence for many, many years. Do you know how many new contracts have been --

MR. ORTIZ:
I don't know the exact number offhand, but one of the --

MR. MONTANO:
Could you find that out for us and give it --

MR. ORTIZ:
I will. And one of the ideas of --

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's on my list of things to do today.

LEG. MONTANO:
All right. We'll give it to -- I'd like to get a copy of that, because --

MR. ORTIZ:
One of the things we did for this committee was I supplied you a list of contracts that have been in existence for at least three years and that's why we brought them forward; none of the new contracts, because we wanted people with a history.

LEG. MONTANO:
Okay. So that explains why there are no new contracts here.

MR. ORTIZ:
Correct.

MR. MONTANO:
Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Could I just ask, the fee-for-service contracts that you have, that's for the shelters, right, the homeless shelters, is really what they would probably fall under under that. How is the payment on that? Do you get an advance on that or --

MS. WATSON:
We do not get an advance.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So, if you house someone for one night or a week, and what do you do, then you bill at the end of the month?

MS. WATSON:
The shelter is billed weekly.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Weekly.

MS. WATSON:
Transitional is billed monthly.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. WATSON:
The clients sign what is called the "motel sheet".

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. WATSON:
And at the end of the week or month, I would figure out the amounts and send it.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And when do you get your money from that, typically?

MS. WATSON:

Eight weeks later, eight to ten weeks later.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay, okay. I don't have anything else, if anybody has -- thank you very much, ladies.

DR. MARTIN:
Thank you.

MS. FITZ:
Thank you.

MS. WATSON:
Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:
OLA. You are obviously not Isabelle.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
No, I'm not. Good morning. My name is Adam Ortiz. I'm a Board Member of OLA.

LEG. ALDEN:
You have to pull that closer.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I apologize. My name is Adam Ortiz. I'm a Board Member of OLA, residing in Hampton Bays. It's good to meet and see all of you.

P.O. LINDSAY:
What does OLA stand for?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Organizacion Latino Americana, or Latin American Organization. Generally, we --

LEG. MONTANO:
Speak more into the mike.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Sorry.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Just pull it right up to you, pull it right up to. There you go, there you go.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Generally, we try to support the Latino population in the East End, as well as any other cultural organization that is willing to work together as a team. And we're here just to give you a better understanding of the organization. At this point right now, I believe we have no contracts with Suffolk County.

P.O. LINDSAY:
You don't have a contract with us?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Then why are you hear?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I was asked -- I'm sorry.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. No, don't apologize.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I was asked to represent the organization and --

P.O. LINDSAY:
No. Evidently, we invited you, but it just mystifies me why we invited you if you don't have any contracts.

MR. MONTANO:
Well, let me, if I may.

LEG. NOWICK:
It mystifies me more why you'd show up.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yeah.

LEG. ALDEN:
By that's sarcasm on our part. We're glad you came.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator Montano.

MR. MONTANO:
Well, yeah. I wasn't aware that you received any County contracts. Did you receive a member item grant or a community support initiative from Legislator Schneiderman this year from the County?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I do apologize Legislator Montano. I don't have that information in front of me. What I do have is an invitation to our former Director, Mrs. Sandra Dunne, from Presiding Officer Lindsay's Office asking for us to represent our organization. I am not the financial --

MR. MONTANO:
Right.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I am not the financial person within the organization, I am just a Board Member --

MR. MONTANO:
Okay.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
-- finding time to help support the community.

MR. MONTANO:
If I may --

P.O. LINDSAY:
And we appreciate you coming down, don't get me wrong.

MR. MONTANO:
If I may, I think last year, if I remember correctly, speaking with Legislator Schneiderman, you received a small grant from the County. I might have contributed to OLA also, but I'll have to check the records. John, do you know?

MR. JOHN ORTIZ:
Yeah. In 2006, they received $25,000.

MR. MONTANO:
Twenty-five thousand. Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:
And then they were cut after that?

MR. JOHN ORTIZ:
And, yeah, there was nothing put into the recommended budget this year.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So why don't you tell us about your organization.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Yeah, that's good to know. I believe that most of those monies went to our Executive Director, who right now has resigned. And being a new person as part of OLA, I wasn't part of the decision-making process in hiring the Executive Director that will encompass more than 80% of our budget. I certainly would have put some words of understanding with that. But with that said, our organization is full of volunteers who are trying to support the Latino population in the east end.

I'm not here to provide personal opinions. However, it is clear that the east end is lacking in some sort of understanding in community involvement with a population that is somewhat invisible. As an American myself, a proud American myself living in Hampton Bays, there is a need for organizations such as OLA and that's where I come in.

We provide free English classes through a local church, United Methodist Church in Southampton. We provide free computer skills. We have several computers in our office in Watermill. We also provide leadership training. We received that grant, I believe, from the Universalist Church. Again, I apologize if there are any other monies coming in, certainly not as much as what I've just been hearing, but we try to make the best that we receive.

We also provide monthly general meetings. Just this past month, we offered a banking workshop for our Latino population, and that's when we invited Citibank to be part of it. As you may know, Citibank is opening a branch right in Hampton Bays, and they are also providing opportunities for Latino immigrants to open an account or a credit account, and that certainly has been an issue, a topic of discussion in Suffolk County, and again, just trying to give people an opportunity to hide their money. As you may know, most of the immigrants walk around with cash and we certainly can see that there may be some issues with that, and so we provided that service. We also have provided a service with -- that we work with the Diabetes Foundation, and they -- again, we provided a workshop on that behalf.

So I certainly am here just to represent the organization. I'm proud to be part of it, and I hope that maybe in the future we might be able to work more closely with Suffolk County and helping the volunteers such as myself support a significant segment of Suffolk County.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Just some technical questions. Do you have -- does the agency employ anyone?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
We did. As I said, the Executive Director unfortunately resigned. We did. We have no employees right now, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:
No employees currently.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
No, not right now, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Just all volunteers?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Yes, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:
How many volunteers?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
We have -- right now, we have five Board Members, and we're doing the best that we can do.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Anything --

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Just to give you an example of how important it is, I work at Stony Brook University, I also am a member of the Hispanic Advisory Board here at Suffolk County, and I also work for OLA, and I drive from Hampton Bays to Stony Brook every day for ten years, and if I felt that there was no need for more assistance for the population in the east end, I certainly wouldn't spend the amount of time and dedication that I have. And I just again hope that you might just take an opportunity to just help support organizations such as OLA.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Is there any other organizations like OLA on the east end?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Not that I know of, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I know that the have been other organizations in Suffolk County and in Nassau wanting to spread out to the east end. That may happen in the future, and we would love to open our arms and help extend ourselves. However, I look forward to OLA being able to continue its I think important work in the east end. It certainly is becoming more and more difficult, seeing that we I think are in a deficit at this point right now.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:
A little point of clarification. When you say "east end", North Fork or South Fork or both?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I'm sorry, South Fork.

LEG. ALDEN:
South Fork.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Yes, we do most of the work in the South Fork.

LEG. ALDEN:
Do you run up into Riverhead at all or --

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
We do work with NAACP in Riverhead from time to time, that's correct.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. Then you have two Legislators that I would strongly suggest you start working with a little bit, and that's Legislator Romaine and Legislator Schneiderman, because that would be how you initiate the process to start looking at the possibility of grants again.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I understand. We're actively trying to get some more Board Members at this point right now. And it was a surprise to us when our Executive director resigned, certainly it was a surprise to me. Maybe it wasn't a surprise to other people. But being a new person, I'm certainly not in touch with how the political realities of our organization works with. However, it was a surprise to me, and so we're trying to find ways to be able to hire another Executive Director. As you may know, most agencies will not fund organizations without an Executive Director, so we're kind of back to square one.

LEG. ALDEN:
But -- and you're on the Advisory Panel.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:
Panel you'll get a little education as far as, you know, like what Suffolk County is looking to do, what programs are, you know, acceptable, what programs are not acceptable, and things like that, so that should give you a little bit more, because it looks like you're, not starting over again, but you've got to rebuild considerably, so --

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
That is correct.

LEG. ALDEN:
Good. All right. And thanks. Again, thanks for coming down --

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:
-- especially since we don't give you any money and you're willing to take time out and drive here, so thanks a real lot, actually.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
That's fine. I'm sorry to take up your time.

P.O. LINDSAY:
How do you run the programs that you have now, do you get any other funding or --

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Well, the monthly meetings, we certainly -- we ask for volunteer organizations to come and provide those workshops. I believe we are --

P.O. LINDSAY:
So it's mostly in-kind donations from --

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
They certainly are in-kind donations. And again, it's -- we've just heard news that it is becoming more and more difficult to get those funds without an Executive Director and --

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. So you don't get any other State or Federal, Town, nothing, Village, nothing like that --

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I don't think so, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
But again, I am not the financial person.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay, okay, okay.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I apologize.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Legislator Montano.

MR. MONTANO:
No. I was just going to say that I actually know OLA quite well, been out there several times. They're mostly an advocacy organization, volunteers. They take up causes on issues that affect the Latino community out in the east end. I wasn't even clear that you -- I knew that you had an Executive Director, but I wasn't even clear that she was paid.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Yeah.

MR. MONTANO:
Or certainly not paid a lot of money, that's for sure.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Well, I believe -- I believe --

LEG. MONTANO:
That was Isabelle, right.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
No, that wasn't Isabelle.

MR. MONTANO:
Who?

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
That was Sandra Dunne.

LEG. MONTANO:
Oh, Sandra Dunne was the Executive Director, okay.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
That's right. And I believe she may have amounted to about 20,000 of the 25.

MR. MONTANO:
Okay.

MR. JOHN ORTIZ:
Can I just make a correction, that, one, Mr. Ortiz was right and one was wrong. They only got fifteen hundred dollars last year, not 25,000.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Oh, okay, so --

MR. MONTANO:
Yeah, I thought that they were looking to get funding, and they had an Executive Director in name only, but no salary.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
I didn't know where the money came from, so I took it --

MR. MONTANO:
There was no money.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Okay, so --

MR. MONTANO:
Fifteen hundred dollars I think was --

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
That's it.

MR. MONTANO:
And was that a CSI or at that time a member item?

MR. ORTIZ:
Yes, it was an omnibus hit.

LEG. MONTANO:
Omnibus hit, okay. Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:
Thanks for coming down.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Thank you very much for coming down.

MR. ADAM ORTIZ:
Thank you for inviting us.

P.O. LINDSAY:
South Fork Community Health Initiative.

MS. SPENCER:
My name is Stacey Spencer.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay. I had Darlene Mercieca.

MS. SPENCER:
Darlene Mercieca, the Executive Director, had a previous commitment.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay, very good. Thank you for coming down. Maybe you could give us a brief description of your agency, the programs --

MS. SPENCER:
Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:
-- you have, what population you serve, and what geographical area.

MS. SPENCER:
Okay, yes, sir. Currently, we serve the South Fork, east end of Long Island, from Riverhead to Montauk. The population that we serve are the indigent and the underinsured and uninsured. Primarily, 90% of our population is Hispanic and 10% is Caucasian.

Currently, we offer blood pressure screenings in both East Hampton and Montauk for our seniors. We offer prostate screening in Hampton Bays. We have mammography and pap screaming. We have a Bosom Buddies Program, which is a program that links cancer victims or cancer survivors with one of our advocates who attends doctors appointments with them, so if there is any need for translation or even that second set of ears in this really stressful time.

We also offer our a primary care program, as I'm sure a lot of people might know. Health care and transportation is a huge issue on the east end and we are fortunate to have the East Hampton Health Care Center at our disposal. And at the center we administer a program that provides people who do not qualify for Medicaid, but perhaps don't have their own private insurance, an opportunity to see a primary care physician for a reduced price of $25.

We offer an immunization program with Suffolk County. We do HIV testing, counseling and referrals. We have several educational programs, prenatal programs, parenting, mothers mentoring in four different east end locations, Riverhead, Hampton Bays, Southampton and East Hampton. We have a day-care safety program that encompasses five east end day-care centers and one elementary school, offering topics on safety that's age appropriate for the children. We have a teen rap program that serves an after school population. And we do a lot of community outreach through Spanish masses. We have health fairs in house, six a year, and we also participate in several local health fairs. We do entitlements, counseling, case management referrals and advocacy.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So I guess you work with our Health Department a lot, right?

MS. SPENCER:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And would it be fair to say that your agency is -- helps deliver services --

MS. SPENCER:
Absolutely.

P.O. LINDSAY:
-- for the Health Department?

MS. SPENCER:
We spend a lot of time at the Riverhead Health Center, and the Accabonac Health Center, and the Southampton Health Clinic. But primarily at Riverhead, we offer prenatal classes and parenting classes that they just simply don't have the staffing to be able to offer right now.

I also -- since I am the Program Director, we have been doing a car seat distribution program at the health center, and which is outreaching to a population that perhaps, due to a cultural -- due to a disparity, they don't really understand the need for car seats, so this is a huge push on our part, is to educate our population on how to use them properly and why they're necessary.

P.O. LINDSAY:
How many employees does your agency have?

MS. SPENCER:
We have four full-time employees.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Any part-time?

MS. SPENCER:
No.

LEG. ALDEN:
Volunteers?

MS. SPENCER:
We have two volunteers presently.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Are you aware of any agencies that provide similar services to the same population in that area?

MS. SPENCER:
Not in our geographical area. However, as you had mentioned, we work very closely with the health centers, local church and the hospitals.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And how much funding do you receive from the County?

MS. SPENCER:
From Suffolk County, 34,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And what is your overall budget?

MS. SPENCER:

I'm not the financial person --

P.O. LINDSAY:
Roughly.

MS. SPENCER:
-- but I believe it's approximately 185,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Do you get any State, Town, Village?

MS. SPENCER:
That total represents 45,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And do you do any outside fund-raising?

MS. SPENCER:
We had our first annual fund-raiser last year, and I am charged this year with our fund-raiser, so we do have a Fall event planned.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. SPENCER:
And last year we were able to raise $5,000.

P.O. LINDSAY:
So where does the difference come from?

MS. SPENCER:
It comes from grants from private corporations.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. SPENCER:
Like, for instance, the MAC Foundation.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MS. SPENCER:
They do the HIV Grant.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Which is outside fund-raising.

MS. SPENCER:
Okay. Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

P.O. LINDSAY:
All right? And what would be the consequences of not receiving the County funding?

MS. SPENCER:
At least one employee would have to be laid off.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And what percentage of your overall budget goes for administrative expenses?

MS. SPENCER:
Eight percent.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Eight?

MS. SPENCER:
Uh-huh.

P.O. LINDSAY:
And does the CEO earn more than 20% of the budget?

MS. SPENCER:
No, sir. She gets a travel stipend and her time is donated.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Oh, very good. I don't have any other questions. Does anybody else have anything? Thank you for being patient and waiting for us.

MS. SPENCER:
Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Being so informative.

LEG. ALDEN:
You have to drive back to where?

MS. SPENCER:
East Hampton.

LEG. ALDEN:
I just went that route yesterday, two hours from Islip to East Hampton.

MS. SPENCER:
Oh, I know, it's deadly.

LEG. ALDEN:
It's pathetic.

MS. SPENCER:
It really is.

LEG. ALDEN:
And then about the same thing coming back.

MS. SPENCER:
It's a little bit better coming back, maybe, but the ride out is very hard.

LEG. ALDEN:
There was a long time I was doing like two to five miles an hour.

MS. SPENCER:
Yeah. You get lots of quiet windshield time.

LEG. ALDEN:
And you're not getting paid.

MS. SPENCER:
I'm a salaried employee, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:
Oh, okay.

MS. SPENCER:
I'm not the Director, I'm the Program Director.

LEG. ALDEN:
Oh, okay.

MS. SPENCER:
I'm just hear on behalf of the Director.

LEG. ALDEN:
Okay. And thanks again for coming out.

MS. SPENCER:
Okay, thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Route 110 Redevelopment Corp.

LEG. MONTANO:
We never heard from them right, on anything?

LEG. ALDEN:
This is the second or third time they're invited.

LEG. MONTANO:
I don't think we give them any money anymore, right?

P.O. LINDSAY:
Well, the only thing I can say is that it's, yeah, it was 11 -- that clock is wrong.

LEG. MONTANO:
Yeah, the clock says 10 to 12.

LEG. ALDEN:
I'd squash them like a bug next time.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yeah, I was going to say, man, we're really ahead of schedule.

LEG. D'AMARO:
I'm with, Cameron.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yeah, I agree, I agree.

LEG. D'AMARO:
They didn't even show up.

LEG. ALDEN:
Well, they could have called and said, you know, like they were busy.

P.O. LINDSAY:
In all honesty --

MR. MONTANO:
She's with the union.

P.O. LINDSAY:
In all honesty, I'll check.

MR. MONTANO:
CSEA, right?

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:
AME.

P.O. LINDSAY:
No, no, no, AME.

MR. MONTANO:
No, AME. I'm sorry, AME, yeah. I'm thinking CSEA. I've got to fill out my --

P.O. LINDSAY:
I'll check if we heard from them, but we're not having any other meetings and they were invited twice.

LEG. ALDEN:
John.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yes, John.

MR. ORTIZ:
Quick note, just checking my data base on contract agencies, there were 145 agencies funded in 2007 that weren't funded in 2006. So what he implies is new might be different than what the budget shows.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Well, I think there's two things in the numbers that I really want refined, is, first of all, did we add 300 new agencies in '07, and of that 300, how many were added by the Executive and how many were added by the Legislature, and how many agencies were dropped?

The process of the not-for-profit agencies that serve our County is constantly evolving. I mean, new ones pop up, old ones disappear. I mean, we just heard from one fellow here today that we funded last year we're not funding this year. So, you now, to say that we're insatiable and that we added 300 agencies is not the full picture, and I think --

MR. ORTIZ:
I'll certainly get you those numbers.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Thank you.

LEG. MONTANO:
John, in those numbers, going back to -- when did I -- I got elected in 2003. In 2004, there were agencies that were cut and then restored by the Legislature. I don't know if it's the same request, but what I'm looking for is not agencies that have been renewed, but those agencies that are totally new to the process, since -- you know, since I got elected, in terms of how many actual new agencies, and when were they brought in. I know I brought in a couple of new agencies in my district, but they've been funded for now three years. So that's basically the information that I was looking for in terms of getting a handle on how many actual new ones, and then what -- obviously, what Bill said, they replaced some other agencies.

MR. ORTIZ:
Well, we can certainly compile a list of all agencies added since that year, so it shouldn't be a problem.

P.O. LINDSAY:
But the number you had off the top of your head was 143?

MR. ORTIZ:
One-forty-five that weren't funded in '06 that were funded in '07.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Okay.

MR. ORTIZ:
But they might have been funded in previous years.

LEG. MONTANO:
Right. That's really why, you know, I think you've got to look at all those agencies that have been around from 2002, then -- and then, you know, wean out which ones were new, some were dropped for a year, for whatever -- you know, whatever the numbers show. Do you think you can do that?

MR. ORTIZ:
I'll give you a complete history, no problem.

LEG. ALDEN:
John one other thing, just -- and I'm going to throw it out there as a question, to establish the processing cost to the County, if there's some way you could, you know, think through, you know, what that process would even be, because there would have to be somebody that reviews the application, somebody that, you know, like actually does some number crunching, then there's a review in progress, and things of that nature. But there's been a number thrown around that seems kind of incredible to me, if they want to limit that to just the processing of the application. Ongoing compliance processing or compliance checks, of course, that's what the County's in business for and that's why you have auditors and you have, you know, people in every department. So if those figures are being lumped into this, you know, that might be a little unfair, too. So if you could maybe prepare, you know, some kind of a report that would give us an idea of what it actually costs, you know, initial processing and then maybe compliance, because those are two different things.

MR. ORTIZ:
Generally, we refer to it as like an opportunity cost where, you know, employees could be doing

other things. It would be hard to put really a dollar figure on processing an application. Some might take much longer than others.

LEG. ALDEN:
That's kind of like my point, actually.

P.O. LINDSAY:
You know, being that we're having an open discussion on this, and I think it's very appropriate that this is the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, and I know I found the whole process enlightening, but what's occurred to me a couple of times, especially with the bigger agencies that we do business with for the last 30 years, I mean, the situation with the youth groups in the Town of Babylon, why their money is being delayed is just -- I just can't figure it out.

MR. MONTANO:
There's no reason.

P.O. LINDSAY:
We shouldn't have really anything to do with it, the Town is doing all the administration for us. Why are we micromanaging? And we don't trust the Town of Babylon to do the proper auditing? I mean, they invest more money in the program than we do.

LEG. ALDEN:
It's every town that we give money to, they've used the same logic and that's to hold up these payments. They have signed some contracts, but the payments haven't been made.

P.O. LINDSAY:
But the other thing that keeps coming to mind, have we ever explored multi-year contracts? Do you realize how -- you know, if we approved a contract for a two-year basis in stead of one-year basis, you know all the administrative time that would be saved that you wouldn't have to replicate, not for everybody, but certainly for the bigger agencies that we have an ongoing relationship with for decades? Why do we have to replicate the same process every year when the answers are basically the same?

MR. ORTIZ:
I looked into that when the request was raised a few meetings ago. We do have multi-year contracts, some of the larger agencies. The ones that are added in the omnibus every year have to be re-executed every year.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yeah, but we don't have too many multi-year contracts. I mean --

MR. ORTIZ:
I don't know the exact number, but I know we do have some.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Cornell, I got a meeting with Cornell, which is one of our bigger agencies, they had to pay $35,000 in interest because their contract wasn't approved timely this year. They had to float a loan.

LEG. MONTANO:
I think -- Bill.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yeah.

MR. MONTANO:

One of the reasons I think that the contract is in multi years, because we do our budgeting every year. However, I don't think -- and then the other issue is we really, you know, as a Legislature, can't be appropriating money in prior years where we may not be sitting.

LEG. ALDEN:
But we actually do, though.

MR. MONTANO:
Well, we can in certain ways with leases and that, but that's a whole other issue. But the thing I was going to say is that even though we budget every year, these contracts, at least when we did them in the State, they all have an escape clause that says the municipality or the State has the option of terminating this contract unilaterally on 90 days notice, and we could simply do a contract that is renewable contingent upon funding, and it makes the process so much easier, and that's --

P.O. LINDSAY:
Right, right.

LEG. MONTANO:
And I agree with you, that's really what we need to do, so this way they can't say -- and the other thing is, these contracts that we're doing, they're really pro forma contracts.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Right.

MR. MONTANO:
They don't change form year to year. The name may change, the address may change, the dollar amount may change, but as far as the services and all that, this thing is not brain surgery, these are done as pro forma, take them or leave it, it's not -- you don't sit down and negotiate, you just present the contract and tell the agency, "These are the terms and conditions under which you work this year and this is the amount of money," and they'll sign anything you put in front of them, it's not that big a deal.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Well, we just approved a resolution, and to give the credit, you know the Executive worked out with Cornell this master contract, because Cornell had contracts with Health and Probation, and a multitude of different agencies, Youth, and they came up with a master contract, which we had to approve that Legislatively in the last meeting, which we did do. And what they are hoping that we'll save is, instead of filling out the Living Wage form 17 times for each contract, they could fill out one master form. And that's what I'm looking for, to streamline the process along those lines.

So much of what we -- I mean, since we started the CSI process and I'm signing the contracts here, honest to God, folks, the stack of papers is that thick for a thousand dollar item. You know, it doesn't make any difference, could be 1,000, could be 100,000, it's still the same. But most of it is pro forma stuff. And again, I'm not saying for everybody, but for the bulk of the people that we do business with year after year after year, I think there's ways of streamlining the process and cutting back on the huge administrative expenses that it has to cost us for doing the same thing over and over and over again.

LEG. ALDEN:
I believe it was in 1999, the County Executive, when he sat in this side of the street, in the Legislature, actually passed a piece of legislation that cut down on the paperwork. It was called the Paperwork Reduction Act for small contract agencies. And I think maybe we ought to just dig that out and maybe just enforce it now.

P.O. LINDSAY:
I'm willing to --

LEG. ALDEN:
Plus, it defined what a legitimate expense for the County would be, such as after school programs, you know, feed the poor, clothe the poor, shelters, things of that nature, so it actually outlined pretty much what we've been doing on our CSI grants.

P.O. LINDSAY:
Anybody else? Okay. We stand adjourned. Thank you very much for serving all year long, you guys and gals, I really appreciate it, and I think it did serve a purpose. We stand adjourned.

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:00 NOON]

{ } Indicates Spelled Phonetically