

**OPERATING BUDGET  
JOINT COMMITTEE HEARINGS  
VETERANS AND SENIORS  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
AND  
EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

**Minutes**

The joint Operating Budget Committee Hearing of the Veterans and Seniors, Consumer Protection and Government Operations, and Education and Youth Committess was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Building, Smithtown, New York, on Monday, **October 28, 2002.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Cameron Alden - Chairman  
Legislator Angie Carpenter  
Legislator Brian Foley  
Legislator William Lindsay  
Legislator Martin Haley  
Legislator Lynne Nowick  
Legislator Andrew Crecca

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Janet Walerstein - Child Care Council  
Karen Boorshtein - Family Service League  
Lynne Keenan - CCE  
Allan Varela - Long Island Arts  
Muriel Weyl - Suff Co. Advisory Board of the Arts  
Andrea Vecchio - TAXPAC  
Diana Cherryholmes - Huntington Arts Council  
Elsa Ford - Brentwood/Bayshore Cancer Coalition  
Marcia Spector - SNAP  
Helen Meyer - American Red Cross  
Roberta Monat - JASA  
Donna DiBenedetto - Rose Pelletier Center  
Jeannie Ferdinando - Rose PELletier Center  
Brenda Shich - Madonaa Heights Services  
Ruth Bruun - Family Counseling Service  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

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(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:20 P.M.\*)

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. Good afternoon. We're going to start your combined Legislative committees today that deal with our budget process, and we're going to have our representatives from Budget Review led us in the Pledge.

#### SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. Thank you very much. Now, earlier we had some people fill out cards, and I'm going to call these names off. Some of them I think may have left, but last name looks like V-a-r-e-l-a, Allen. Okay. Muriel Weyl. Okay. Andrea Vecchio. Anthony Abruscato, Jr. Okay. Come on up. Now, you have an option, you can stand up at the podium and address us, or you can sit down at the table. So whichever you feel more comfortable with. You have three minutes.

MR. ABRUSCATO:

With the budget deficit at over 73 million, the County should be cutting costs wherever, whenever possible. The Suffolk County Police car computers are now able to pick up video surveillance on them. They have video and audio surveillance equipment in a person's apartment and car, Manorville. The Fifth and Seventh Precincts are able to get on their police car computers -- what that person is doing in their apartment and car at all times. I think it's outrageous. This has been going on for over three and a half years now. And that person has not committed a crime or have been convicted of one. That's all I have to say. P.O. Box 384, Mastic, New York, 11950. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you. Okay. Sandra Nash. Diana Cherryholmes. Elsa Ford. Hi, Elsa.

MS. FORD:

I'm Elsa Ford, President of the Brentwood-Bay Shore Breast Cancer Coalition. I'm here today to tell you about an important health fair held in Brentwood this past Saturday, and its relevance to health and budget. The National Cancer Institute in order to carry out its networks and action program to reach out to Hispanic people contacted us through the Cancer Information Service Regional person asking that we help to develop a pilot program in Brentwood. Brentwood has the second largest Hispanic population outside of New York City in New York State.

When we formed our Latino Health initiative, we went beyond cancer to the health problems we see in our community. I brought you to this flyer from our program. You can see some of the subject areas that we

offered for education and for screening. Our estimate is that 500 people including Hispanic and non Hispanic people participated in this fair. Two doctors worked from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. providing medical breast examinations and training for self examination for 50 women, 19 women were referred for a mammography. Each person -- and those appointments were made. Each person who registered received a flow sheet to show the stations visited, comments and referrals. One

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-- woman who was found to have a high glucose level and high blood pressure was taking by a waiting ambulance to the hospital.

This is an example of a savings of health, possibly of life and long term health care costs in just one case. Medicare costs are best saved in the beginning. We all benefit. But what happens if referrals are restricted by budget cuts of the health care centers? The Brentwood Family Health Center services were stretched a year ago.

And in the same magnet area, the Bay Shore Health Center was closed. In August the 5% early retirement staff cut reduced service further. Hospital emergency rooms are overwhelmed by people who would be better served by adequate primary health care opportunities. Look beyond the budget sheets to the community for information of real world health care costs.

The Planning Committee of the Latino Health Initiative would be happy to provide further information to help with these budget deliberations. When I arrived, I put on a "yes" sticker, because health is just one example of the importance of service necessary for Suffolk County to be a viable community. And I have -- I can give the --

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Tom, could you grab that, please. You also have a question from Legislator Foley or a comment.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Elsa, it's great to see you. Your comments are well taken, and we can use your help over the next number of months, not just on the budget, the fact of the matter is Legislator Alden, Legislator Carpenter and myself and others have been endeavoring to have the -- to find a new location for the Bay Shore Health Center. And as we speak, there's been a number of Space Management Meetings, another one this week, but for whatever reason the -- the issue, the topic, the project of finding a new health center has not been at this Space -- has not been on the agenda of the

Space Management Committee over the last number of months. So after

today help from you and from your network of advocates would help us to try to recreate Bay Shore Health Center, which we all know is absolutely critical.

MS. FORD:

I'm delighted to hear that, and we'd be glad to help in any way we can.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thanks a lot. Okay. These are just in the order that we received them. As you know, this is a combination of different committees. Marcia Spector.

MS. SPECTOR:

Good afternoon. I'm the Executive Director of SNAP Long Island, which was formed by Suffolk County in 1979 as the Suffolk Network on

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adolescent pregnancy. I've come back again today to speak to you, the people on the Education and Youth Committee to make a plea for restoration of our funding. I'd like to bring your attention to two recent studies that our organization did and copies of those studies were placed in folders for you at the Riverhead Public Hearing.

The first one looks at the public cost of out of wed lock adolescent births in Suffolk County. It looks at public assistance costs, food stamp, WIC, Medicaid, child care, and labor and delivery costs from the time of an infant's birth until the infant's first birthday. And we did this study in corporation with a number of County Departments. What we determined is that every public assistance adolescent birth costs Suffolk County between 22,000 and \$70,000 for the first year of life; 22,000 if the mother and her baby reside at home with her parents; \$70,000 if she resides in a shelter. Eight percent of adolescent births are public assistance eligible. In the Year 2000, which is the last year for which we have statistics, there were 854 out of wed lock adolescent births, costing Suffolk County taxpayers a minimum of \$15 million just for the first year of life.

The proposed \$24,800 cut to SNAP represents the cost of one teen birth. Our programs reach over 1000 pregnancy and parenting and at risk adolescents and their families, and our unit cost is \$25 per adolescent. Every birth we prevent represents the potential of a

minimum of \$22,000 a year. We also did a study of adolescent pregnancy by Legislative District, and that was again in that folder. I have some extra copies if any of you are interested. What we did was we looked at the zip codes that are assigned to each Legislative district since births are reported by zip code. And we calculated how many pregnancies -- how many pregnancies are assigned to each Legislative District by virtue of zip code. And, for example, Legislative District 10, which is Legislator Alden's district had the highest total of Suffolk County with 209 adolescent births for the Year 2000. Eighty percent of those are eligible for public assistance, and so the cost for your district alone would be 14,000,700 -- I'm sorry, that's living in a shelter -- \$4,684,108 or if they all lived in a shelter, 14,000 -- 14,716,000. It's an enormous cost.

We run a very cost effective program. We have managed in the time that we've been funded to reduce pregnancies by 54%. We do a good job, we do it better, and we do it cheaper than the county could ever do. I'm disappointed that the County Executive has attempted to balance the budget on the backs of the contract agencies, but I'm very grateful that we have a Legislature that is open to ideas. And I appreciate the time that I've spoken with you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

And thanks for the clarifying comments that we're looking at the County Executive's budget. So thanks a lot. Okay. Any other questions? Good. Roberta Monat.

MS. MONAT:

Hi. I'm Director JASA Services on Long Island, Jewish Association for Services for the Aged, and I've been working in Suffolk County in geriatrics for the past 20 years. And what I'm here to do is to

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advocate also for you to have the compassion to restore some of the funding to the contract agencies. I'm particularly talking about the home delivered meals program. They are 205 -- almost 206,000 home delivered meals being delivered. And a 10% cut would be devastating to the seniors. These are -- these are the people who -- who -- who provided services, you know, to the country for the past 50 years, they fought in World War II, and now that they're frail, these are the people who need the home delivered meals.

When the state was looking to cut back last year, one of the things that they said was they would never cut back on a home delivered meals

program, and I'm asking you to do the same thing. That these seniors, many of whom are on dialysis, who had strokes, some of them are

amputees, they have no other -- no other means of getting food. If they did, they wouldn't be eligible for the program. If they had families, they wouldn't be eligible. So the only means for them to have nutrition, a hot meal five days a week, is for the home delivered meals program. And as I was looking at the Suffolk County Office for the Aging tentative budget for 1993 -- excuse me -- for 2003 and 2004, there is a figure of \$3,300,000 which is for epic reimbursement. This is a new program which is a very generous way for the seniors of Suffolk County to have their Epic premiums paid for. And I applaud that program, but it doesn't compare to the \$800,000 needed to restore for the home delivered meals. So that I think we need to prioritize the most important things. And as I speak for 206,000 senior frail elderly in Suffolk County, I'm asking you to please restore that funding.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you for coming down. Any questions? Thank you very much. Donna DiBenedetto.

MS. DIBENEDETTO:

Hi. My name is Donna DiBenedetto, and I'm 18 year old. I voluntarily placed myself into the Rose Pelletier Center on February 18th. Before I lived there, I was in a -- with an adopted family in whose home I was starved, emotionally abused and physically abused.

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was close to giving up, and I thought I was worthless. I was contemplating the thought of suicide, and I thought there was no escaping the life I lived. Well, I was wrong. My opinion on life changed as soon as I moved into the rose Pelletier Center. For once I was -- I saw that there was more to live than just pain and child abuse. I was forced to go back to school, and I'm glad that I was. They helped me find myself. The person I was becoming was not the person I was deep down, and they helped me see that. Since I've lived there, I've finished high school, and I'm now looking toward college. If you would have told me a year ago that this is where I would be, I would laughed in your face, because I was positive my life was going nowhere. During this time, I've also undergone a major jaw surgery, and during my recovery period someone was there to help me with my every need.

The Rose Pelletier Center of Madonna Heights has showed me that there's love in the world. They helped turn me into the caring young woman that I am today. I attend therapy every week, and I have goal planning sessions with case manager every week. I now know how to

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cook, do laundry and budget my money. I learned all the skills I need

to survive in life. I'm thankful for everything that has been done for me, and I'm glad that there is help for other girls like myself who think that their life is hopeless. The Rose Pelletier Center has done more than just provide me with a home, food and a bed. They have helped me find myself, and that is a gift greater anything in the world.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you very much for coming down. Jeannie Ferdinando.

MS. FERDINANDO:

My name is Jeannie Ferdinando, and I'm 19 year old. I reside at the Rose Pelletier Center. I'm here -- the reason why I'm here is because I thought I knew everything there was to know about life by the age of 15 years old. And unfortunately, I dropped out of school and recently after starting doing drugs, being -- being badly addicted to crack-cocaine and heroine and alcohol. And I lived that lifestyle for close to five years. Quite honestly, I never thought I was ever going to be able to change my life around, because that was the only way of life that I knew. I got pregnant in January, and when I found out that I was pregnant, I immediately stopped doing drugs and drinking.

I can still remember everything that was told to me, but I just couldn't feel any better about it. I was interviewed by Rachel, my case -- my case manager, and the case -- the house manager, Irene. And a week and a half later, I found out that I was accepted into the Rose Pelletier Center. And they made me feel as comfortable as possible and assisted me with all my needs from the feelings of the lose that I had to go through a couple of weeks before. Staff has put me into Wilson Tech to get my GED, and I want to go for my CNA and cosmetology license. And although I have been going to rehab at Pedersen Kraig, there have times where I felt like I can't handle stress and thought that I wanted to get high. But thanks to the love and support of the staff, I have just made eight months clean. This house is very important for girls my age, because this is a place that sets a steady living environment and is dedicated to the residents, especially the staff. And they help people realize that they don't -- they don't have to live the life that I started to. And if I wasn't here, I'd probably be back on the streets and doing drugs and messing up all over again.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thanks a lot for coming down. Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you very much. When some of the -- thank you for your comments, they were very instructive. At some point if there's someone from Madonna Heights that can speak to the issue, because we're at two

different budget lines. One, there's no cut at all, and then the other line is a \$17,000 cut out of the \$170,000. So that's roughly 10%. And what does that mean? You know.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Who that raising their hand there? You were the not next, but the after that. Brenda Shick.

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MS. SHICK:

I can touch on the financial piece of it. Rose Pelletier is funded by a combination of --

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I'm sorry, I'm going to have to ask you to just speak into the mike.

MS. SHICK:

The Rose Pelletier is funded by a combination of state and County money. The state provided 60%. The 10% cuts represents \$17,814 of which \$7125 is County money. Okay. If his program closes, the cost to the County will be much higher. The rates for emergency housing where the majority of our girls come from and foster care are extraordinarily high as compared to the money -- excuse me -- the per diem rate at Rose Pelletier. This also doesn't take into the other services that these girls would be requiring; continuing public service -- public assistance, the increase in teen pregnancy, drug abuse and incarceration. And the fact remains that we run at a deficit as it is now. The 10% will really force us to close the program, we'll not be able to do it.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah. We just need some help with the budget lines. The one line shows that it's \$528,000 and change, and it hasn't been cut at all. And the other requested 185 and the recommended is 160.

MS. SHICK:

Okay. I'm going to defer to Marcia Lucas, she's more familiar with that than I am.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. If you could come forward and just clarify that for us. Are these two different programs, these two budget lines?

MS. LUCAS:

They are. They are.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

What I have to ask you to do though is just identify yourself for the record.

MS. LUCAS:

Marcia Lucas, I'm the Director of Community Programs at Madonna Heights. I think what you're referring to is the budget for the Morning Star Community Program under the Departments of Health.

LEG. LINDSAY:

We really don't what it is. We're just looking at line items here.

MS. LUCAS:

Right. That's a separate program here. That's 100% state funded. That's why that wasn't touched at all in the Health Department budget. The Rose Pelletier Program is another separate program, and it's 60/40

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state/county.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. And that would be --

MS. LUCAS:

That's the \$17,000 cut that we're talking about here.

LEG. LINDSAY:

So you're looking for us to restore the 17,000 to make that whole.

MS. LUCAS:

Yes, because the agency at this point is already subsidizing the program \$40,000 plus. And the agency will not be able to --

LEG. LINDSAY:

That program is geared towards these two young ladies that were here?

MS. LUCAS:

Yes, 16 to 21 year olds.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And the other program that is totally state funded is?

MS. LUCAS:

Totally state funded is a half way house for women in substance abuse recovery.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I see. Okay. Thank you for the clarification.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just as a follow up, we heard from the Program Director who said the 17,000 really is only 7100 County money, and the remainder is the state?

MS. LUCAS:

Right.

LEG. FOLEY:

Is the state proposing any cuts to your program?

MS. LUCAS:

No. We haven't heard anything.

LEG. FOLEY:

So really what we have to restore is not so much 17,000, but all we need to restore is \$7100, correct?

MS. LUCAS:

Correct. That's right. That's what we're asking for.

LEG. FOLEY:

\$7100 because it's a 60/40 split.

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MS. LUCAS:

Because it's a 60/40 split, right.

LEG. FOLEY:

Is that BRO's -- so if we have to put in an amendment, it's not an amendment for 17,000 -- well, it's for 7100 -- that 7100 will -- will give us an additional \$9000.

MS. LUCAS:

Right, from the state.

LEG. HALEY:

May I?

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:

We still have to put the 17 in, you always have to look at the net. The problem is when we did 10%, we're not going to get a 10% cut in services, we're going to that much more, because we're actually

turning away dollars from the from -- the state and federal government. In other words, we're not reducing \$7100 worth of services, we're actually have an effect of reducing \$17,000 worth of services. And even though we get that money from the state and the feds, we still have to put that in the budget, that amount. But the net is only 7100. And that's a problem when do when we cut across all the agencies, we're funded at so many different levels, you know -- you know, we have to look at what the net means. I mean, it's great to say, oh, yeah, we've cut out fund of X millions of dollars, but the net is a much lower, and it's not a 10% reduction in services to various agencies, it's actually a lot -- could be a lot more severe.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you, Legislator Haley. Legislator Foley and I years ago used to keep our eye on the net, but that was in a different net. I use that lame joke because Legislator Foley comes up with lame stuff like that.

LEG. FOLEY:

Not lame. You know, it's just a little quirk of the language. So now we're focused on a different net now.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Now, to budget Review, are both of those pass throughs?

MR. CLANCY:

From what I've heard from the Youth Bureau is that the youth aide is set. It's a fixed number based on the total numbers of youths and a reimbursement rate, which I was given the 2000 Youth Population as per the 2000 Census was 418,389 youths at \$5.20 per youth. So it's fixed. So any additional cost will be, you know, entirely County funded.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

And what's your projection on that? You match with the County Executive's projection?

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MR. CLANCY:  
Correct.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. Thanks. All right. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I apologize. Ruth, you are a doctor, B-r-u-

MS. BRUUN:  
B-r-u-u-n.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. Sorry.

MS. BRUUN:

I'm Ruth Bruun. I am Executive Director of the Family Counseling Service, which is an agency devoted to maintain stability of individuals through counseling and other mental health treatment as well as education and advocacy. Our headquarters are in Westhampton Beach, and we have satellite offices in Hampton Bays as well as in Shirley. For many years we've had a grant from the Suffolk County youth Bureau to provide counseling for youths, children, who have been referred to us by themselves, by parents, from schools, from CPS and from probation officers among other sources. Our offices in Westhampton Beach and Hampton Bays service an area that includes

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Port, Flanders, Riverhead, towns of the North Fork, Southampton and Hampton Bays.

In addition to providing counseling to help families to function better, we work to keep families together, to prevent children from entering the court system from problems such as truancy,

misdemeanors,

felonies, family violence and the thing, that I guess you just heard from the young ladies that spoke before me. Our programs allow many individuals to avoid costly in-patient hospitalization, schools suspensions, incarcerations, foster care, long term residential placement, things that are far more expensive than the money that we put out towards these children. The County Executive has proposed a 10% funding cut from this grant, and we feel this will seriously and grievously affect the community we now serve. Our grant provides free counseling to the children individually and with their families. We also offer parenting groups.

Additionally, of our great strengths of the Family Counseling Service is that it's a multi service agency with the ability to offer specialized services in many areas. We not only offer counseling to youths and their families, but we are committed as well to serving multiple needs of these clients when needed, which means that we offer psychiatric services at our own cost, not the cost of the grant. So that's something we put. And treat psychiatric treatment to the County when needed. We have also offered specialized services such

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art therapist who works with children who have been abused, again, at no cost. Our global approach to treatment includes not only supporting the individual in need, but also the family by working with schools and other agencies.

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Cutting this program will prove devastating to our efforts to provide a way for disempowered individuals to receive treatment regardless of their ability to pay. Our clients are largely the working poor who cannot seek help anywhere else, because they can neither afford to pay fees nor carry insurance. Such a cut would mean at least 390 fewer hours of service per year for the children in their families under this Youth Bureau contract. Furthermore, the amount being cut is minuscule when compared to the cost that will inevitably fall back upon the County if these services are no longer available to the County's needy at the reasonable costs that only non profit agencies can provide. The cost of placing just one youth in a juvenile detention or residential treatment center is more than our grant for the whole year. Certainly keeping families together and keeping children out of foster care also saves money as well as saving the cost of human misery. And while a 10% grant may not sound like much,

it would make it impossible for us to offer the extra services we offer now and very difficult for us to retain a full time counselor . We appeal to you as providers of essential services to the residents of the East End for over 30 years eliminate these 10% cuts for the Family Counseling Service and for all the other human services agencies in our area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you. Any questions? Thank you very much. Helen Meyer. Good afternoon.

MS. MEYER:

Good afternoon. My name is Helen Meyer, and I'm the program manager of the Juvenile Division of the American Red Cross Community Service Program. Basically, what I'm here for today is to tell you about our juvenile division and why I think that it is a very cost effective program. We are a condition of Probation. Children that come through the Family Court are given probation and community service.

Community

service, being the condition of Probation that it is, is really the eyes and ears for the Probation Department. We place individually and speak with agencies on a weekly and biweekly basis, and we follow very thoroughly each client in the Community Service Program. If a client is having difficulty at agencies and we know for a fact from the information that we receive the child maybe has a learning disability, we give different approaches for that agencies to try to communicate with that child, and very often it works.

The children that we have on the crews -- we have these kids on the crews, I have even gone on crew myself when needed, and these children

have conversations on the van. They argue amongst themselves on the

van. They argue about different things; their home life, drugs, their relationships with their girlfriends and their peers at school. We report -- we're mandated reporters, we report everything to the Probation Department. The Probation Department I don't think could possibly keep as close contact with each of the clients on a individual basis as we do. Now as far as every child and what they get for the \$2.50 that it costs per day to have a child on Community Service, I want to give you a birds eye view of what they get.

First, let me mention that the cost of facility -- of the detention facilities could be between 90 and \$200,000 a year depending on where

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the facility is and what the child's needs are. Okay? For \$2.50 a day, a child gets to abide by his first contract. What I mean by this is the Community Service Program has a contract, the children have to read the contract, understand the contract, and they're bound by that contract, because they have to sign it and their parents are witnesses. So they're learning about contracts. The second thing they have to do when they're placed is have an initial interview with their agency. Okay? They have to be interviewed by the agency, and if the agency decides to accept that child, the child has a placement where he can do his Community Service hours. The child has to dress appropriately, has to present himself and tell why he thinks that he would be asset to the agency.

The agencies are very hard on taking out juveniles. They can very easily take an adult. The juvenile really has to sell himself at these interviews, and this in many occasions is their first opportunity at a typical job interview. They have to sell themselves, and they have to promise to do good. If they don't, and they don't meet the hours that they need, they either get replaced or the agency doesn't need them anymore. They've broken their terms and conditions,

and then we have to decide what to do with them. Okay? As far as once a child is accepted to the program, what does the child learn? The child learns that he has a schedule to meet, just like the schedule in school. He has to report at a certain time, he has to sign in, he has to do his hours, his behavior and his -- his -- the quality of his work is recognized and it's recorded at the agency, and we find out about that. Every time we call an agency to find out how a child is doing. When we pick a child up to do a crew, children are told on the van what the job is going to be for the day. We have instructions for the children to follow, those children who do have difficult understanding the instructions, the crew chiefs know firsthand that he made need to give only one command at that time for the children who have auditory processing problems.

This is something that is very important, because if a child doesn't understand what he's doing, the child gets frustrated. A child gets frustrated, it's only going to set him up for failure on the crew. Okay? So a child learns team work, he learns to do what he has to do, follow instructions, use the tools, and he also gets the satisfaction of having that work done for his own community. Each child works in their own township. They get to know who gave them the money to sponsor this program, because the Community Service Program not

only

receives \$298,000 from the County, we also receive state monies to run every single van. We have a van that takes the children that have no transportation and cannot get to their work site, we have a van in the Town of Islip thanks to Senator Trunzo, we have a van in the Town of Babylon thanks to Senator Johnson, we have a van in Brookhaven

thanks

to Brookhaven youth who gives us \$18,000. And we provide youth placements, because we also have a Brookhaven County crew, and we

have

more kids in Brookhaven than we can handle. We have a Huntington

work

crew, and we -- thanks to Senator Marcellino we have a crew that takes out our juveniles.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Helen.

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MS. MEYER:

This is all to help out juveniles successfully succeed.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I have to interrupt you, and I apologize. Time has expired. There's a question from Legislator Lindsay, and then I'll let you summarize.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Helen, I don't think there's any question I don't think with any of us that -- that your program is a very worthwhile program. Okay? I mean, we've heard over and over and over again. Here's the dilemma we're in. We have Probation telling us that they can provide the same service and save us money doing it. And --

MS. MEYER:

I can't speak for the Probation Department. The only thing that I can say is that it's a big job to do what we do. Following the -- the juveniles and follow their progress as often as we do and one on one as we do with mentoring the kids and referring them to other programs that the Probation Department doesn't provide, that in addition to the workload that they're doing now, I think you're getting more bang for

the buck, so to speak, with a non profit agency. We're human services workers, we come from a different mind set then the Probation Department does. We are a condition of Probation, and we have -- we're monitored by Probation, we do whatever they want us to do, but we also have a human interest in each child that comes before us. I think it takes -- I think it takes a special person and a special program to address all of the needs that a child has.

We have -- we have -- just this past weekend, it was pouring, we had a gang involvement, only kids that are gang involved on their conditions of Probation get counseling for gang programs. We give all of your kids gang -- gang movies. Whenever we have a bad day where the weather is that we can't go outside, that part of day is spent on watching movies. What do the kids learn? Gangs are stupid. Gangs were bad. Gangs are stupid. Gangs are pointless. We have the kids write about everything. They talk from their hearts.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay, Helen. Again, we're hearing you. What we're being told is we can do the same thing with the Probation Department and safe money.

MS. MEYER:

I don't think so, not with the amount of time and energy and the people that we have doing our piece for Probation to do that on top of what they're doing.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Is there any duplication now between you and Probation?

MS. MEYERS:

No.

LEG. LINDSAY:

None. Okay.

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CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I was under the opinion after last week we spoke many times that I think that Ellie was in front of us many times, that's not in fact true. Maybe -- I don't know maybe Ellie Seidman man can just tell us. Is that true? Can they -- you do it -- can you run this program for less money than the Probation Department? I think you told us that.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Before you start speaking, just identify yourself for the record,

please.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Eleanor Seidman-Smith, and I'm the Program Director, still alive and well, for the Community Service Program in Suffolk County. And when we looked at the analysis the budget -- the Budget Directors did for the Budget Review Office, we saw a couple of errors, which probably will be corrected. Number one, we have state members items to the amount -- and I think Marty Haley was talking about that -- we get state member item money and we get state monies to the amount of

half

a million dollars to run our crews. So number one, those are state numbers we've been getting for 15 years. And I think Helen eluded to the fact that we get half a million dollars worth of state member money. That money allows us to run the crews and get the vans. So right there, you'll be saving \$182,000 in vehicle and equipment costs, because we have it already, and it's donated, and the County doesn't have to buy it. So right away, right off the bat, you do not have to spend, the County will not have to spend \$182,000 to duplicate our equipment and duplicate our vans, because that's all donated in kind to the County. Number two --

LEG. FOLEY:

Just a question on that, through the Chair. On the vans, we heard earlier the different townships have vans. Is it the towns that purchase the vans, or was it through -- let's take Brookhaven where we represent. Wait a second, let me ask the question first. Did the town purchase the van, or was it a state grant that was funneled through the town to purchase the van or how -- tell us how that happened in that particular town.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Okay. The senators in each town give us member item money to buy a van, each of them chip in the money for each town.

LEG. FOLEY:

So the van that was purchased in Islip and Brookhaven Town, Babylon, Huntington --

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Goes to the Red Cross.

LEG. FOLEY:

But it wasn't town money, it was a state Legislative grant.

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MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

State Legislative grant money, and that's important to know, because

once those -- that money for those vans goes directly to the County to do the beautification projects. If we didn't have those vans, we'd have to come to you.

LEG. FOLEY:

I understand that, but what we heard earlier is that -- that there are some town monies involved with some of this.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Right. The town money that we get from the Youth Bureau allows us to hire part time people to do -- in the Town of Brookhaven -- to do the youth -- the youth grant. So the Town of Brookhaven chips in an extra amount of money for us to work two Brookhaven projects every

Saturday.

We have Brookhaven one and Brookhaven two. If it weren't for the town, we wouldn't be able to do the Brookhaven projects, that's absolutely correct.

LEG. FOLEY:

Well, to a point, I mean, even without those monies since the County is your basic funder for your programs.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

No.

LEG. FOLEY:

We're not?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

The County provides the operational monies for the program, so you actually provide us with the staff, the day by day everyday staff. If that goes, then we lose all the state monies, because we can't do the project. So we have half a million dollars that we donate and bring in kind.

LEG. FOLEY:

What's your total budget?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

For the juvenile division it's \$298,000 on the adult -- on the juvenile level from the County, and an in kind of approximately \$300,000 from the state and town, and, you know --

LEG. FOLEY:

Do we have that broken down somewhere, the in kind? You've given us some facts and figures in the past, but what I would like to see -- all right -- is this yearly in kind, but also how much of a share the towns give annually to --

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

I gave it to you at our last -- I think at the last full meeting, and I've been faxing you, so I think I did give it out last week.

LEG. FOLEY:

I don't know whether you gave it out broken down by town, though.

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MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Yes, I gave it out broken down by the town -- when the towns gives it, I give the town breakdown.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Budget Review, do you have those numbers? Do you have the in kind?

MS. DOERING:

I believe the in kind is, I believe --

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

On the adult level it's 209,930. On the juvenile level, the state monies, it's approximately 250,000, but we have that.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

If some of the other committees, and there are people meeting right now going other numbers, if they don't have those numbers by the time we get the results of this committee to them, it might be too late for them to consider that. So was that in part of the analysis that was presented by Budget Review and the fact that we would loose almost an equal amount of money if we try and do this in house?

MS. DOERING:

It was my understanding from the Probation Department that they were going to try to get the same funding sources if they were to be handling the program. That included, I believe, about \$85,000 from a member item and also then the matching funds from the state, that it was their intention to try to pursue those funds as well if they took --

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

In the absence of them securing those funds, then the cost of the program as they present it to us goes way up. It's more a County burden then.

MS. DOERING:

Well, actually, the numbers that are in the County budget provide your matching funds, but it doesn't change our amount of funding, am I correct?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Correct.

MS. DOERING:

So it doesn't change our funding.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I'm looking at two proposals, one, if the American Red Cross keeps doing this service. Number two, if it's taken over by our Probation Department. If it's taken over by our Probation Department, and those matching funds don't come through because now that's a new process they have to go through, we're going to have to purchase --

MS. DOERING:

Excuse me. Ellie, is it not true that you get those funds above what the County gives you?

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MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Oh, absolutely. I get matching money from the senators. And I spoke to Senator Johnson, and he said he will not give that money. It's money that I get from the senators. There's no -- the monies -- I get half a million dollars of monies that comes into this County directly to the American Red Cross Community Service Program.

MS. DOERING:

That money is not reflected in the budget numbers that you see. So we have been giving them so many hundreds of thousand dollars, and they've been getting money above that to perform the function. If, in fact, we were to take -- we're matching only the amount when we're saying that the price of the two programs is about the same in the first year, what we are saying is that we never saw that \$295,000. We only are matching on the expense basis. So really that doesn't make a net loss to the County. And if the County were to secure those funds, then our cost of the program would be even lower.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

The cost of purchase of vans and other --

MS. DOERING:

It's about \$182,000 for start up costs.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

How many people do they need over in Probation to actually take over this?

MS. DOERING:

They believe they can do it with 11 with slight changes in how they deliver the program, 11.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
Eleven new hires.

MS. DOERING:  
Eleven new hires.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
And how many other people are they going to allocate from existing duties over to this new program?

MS. DOERING:  
My understanding in their budget request is that they are going to intend to do that program with 11 individuals.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
Any other questions? Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:  
Maybe we can make it easier. Maybe you can say to me, it's going to cost Probation, fill in the blanks, to run this program in 2003, okay? It's going to cost Probation --

MS. DOERING:  
Well, if they bring -- if they -- well, first of all, it's my

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understanding that there will be a slight change in how the program operates. That they intend to take, I believe, more people at a time out to do a different type of -- you know, other community services type things, but it is my understanding if they do not capture any funds from the state, that it would now cost the Probation Department, the net cost would be \$556,000 in 2003. That includes \$182,000 in start up costs that would not be duplicated in successive years.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
And that's both programs.

LEG. NOWICK:  
You can do it for how much?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
I can do it for \$330,000, and that's with 21 people.

LEG. HALEY:  
Now, I'm going to say something.

LEG. NOWICK:

You can do it for how much?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

In 330,796, with 21 people, because I have the assurances of the state monies that helping us be able to go out every Saturday on the crews to be able to keep the kids going. I can do it for 300 -- I don't have start up costs, I don't need vans, I don't need equipment. Remember you've given me all this equipment in the last five years and it's in perfectly good condition. You've give me all the money to keep the staff going, training them and keeping them doing. We do not -- we are all experienced. There is no one on the staff that is not experienced and supervised.

LEG. FOLEY:

Let me ask a follow up question, if I may.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Getting back to the towns for a moment, how much is the Town of Brookhaven giving?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Eighteen thousand dollars.

LEG. FOLEY:

Now, that -- is that state passed monies to the towns, Youth Bureau or -- what are those monies for and where does it come from?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

It comes from --

LEG. FOLEY:

Is it a grant from the state?

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MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

It's a grant from the state, it comes down to the town under YDCC, that's -- and that money goes directly to the American Red Cross Community Service Program as a pass through to them.

LEG. FOLEY:

Now, how are we involved in the -- in the juvenile program? How's the County funding involved in the juvenile program? We fund it to -- to what level?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

\$298,000. As of today, you're giving the juvenile program \$298,000 to carry 21 people.

LEG. FOLEY:

To carry 21 people. And the 18,000 from the Town of Brookhaven is used how within that program?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

That hires the part time people who work the Saturday programs in Brookhaven one, Brookhaven two.

LEG. FOLEY:

It hires the part time people. Without that \$18,000 if you just had -- you still have almost \$300,000 from the County, if you didn't have the 18 from the town, how would you administrator the juvenile program within -- within my Legislative District, Legislator Haley's Legislative District, places up in other areas of the township? How would you do it?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

We'd have to alternate. So one week it would be one part of Brookhaven, then the next it would be -- we'd have to cut one complete crew.

LEG. FOLEY:

No. But would you hire a part time person, or would be using staff from the almost 300,000 that we have given to you?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

We're now using the staff on both levels, because remember, we have four programs that go out with three supervisors.

LEG. FOLEY:

I understand that. So with the 18,000, you're able to hire how many part time?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

We have six revolving part time people with the 18,000, because it's a Saturday program, so that if they don't come in or if adults -- our full time staff doesn't come in, then we have people. We will not cancel a crew, we never cancel crews. We have 52 weeks of crews, so we have these revolving people that will come in. They're all trained.

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LEG. FOLEY:

All right. But without that money, you'd still be able to run the program?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

No. No.

LEG. FOLEY:

Without the 18,000 you couldn't run the program?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Without the 18,000 I would have to --

LEG. FOLEY:

You still have \$300,000 for the -- for the program.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

We couldn't do two crews without the -- the Brookhaven money gives

us

the money to run the Saturday crews. So if we didn't have that money --

LEG. FOLEY:

You're talking about the crew chiefs, correct?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Right, the crew chiefs. So if we don't have --

LEG. FOLEY:

So you still have the people who could do the work, but what you're saying is you wouldn't have the crew chiefs.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Exactly. We wouldn't have the crews. We'd still have the people to monitor the kids, we still have the people to place the kids, we still have the people to interview the kids, we still have the people to go through all the operational pieces, but we wouldn't have the money to be able to go into Marty's district or your district in Brookhaven.

LEG. FOLEY:

I mean, maybe I'm not hearing it right, but you haven't explained how that 18 makes such a difference between whether you can run crews within the township or not. Because you still have the staff.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Well, we don't have the part time staff which is what runs the two crews. We have six part timers that go in; three that go to Brookhaven one, three that go to Brookhaven two. Without them, we'd have to have six of our full time staff.

LEG. FOLEY:

Right. And that's what you'd have to do.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
Well, we'd have to alternate.

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LEG. FOLEY:  
Correct.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
Because we also have the money that goes through all the towns. So it goes from Wyandanch all the way through --

LEG. FOLEY:  
I understand that. I'm not talking about the other townships. I'm talking about Brookhaven Town.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
Yes. Brookhaven.

LEG. FOLEY:  
What you could do is then have your current full time staff alternate those crews; is that not correct?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
Absolutely. We would do whatever it needs to keep the program going and viable.

LEG. FOLEY:  
I'm not saying -- I'm not saying take the money away, you know, i'm a big fan of your program also, but the fact is I'm just trying to get a clear understanding of if the County is giving close to \$300,000 and the particular town's giving 18, part of -- part of the issue is the prioritization of how you go about doing the projects on weekends. That -- that's another discussion for a different day.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
I would do whatever it takes to keep the program going and to keep you satisfied like we always have.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
Legislator Nowick and then Legislator Haley has a --

LEG. NOWICK:  
So just to sum it up from what I understand, Probation Department can do this for 556,000 in the Year 2003 which includes \$182,000 initial layout. You can do it for \$330,000 -- 330,796.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Correct.

LEG. NOWICK:

Which is 21 people rather than 11 people. That's a difference of 225,000. If you take away from that the 182 start up that they won't incur next year, you're still saving 17,000. I'm probably missing something.

MS. DOERING:

May I just add something. Well, something that I also had not realized at the time that this was written up and that the Probation Department brought to my attention, when we were calculating the cost under which the Red Cross could do the program, I had spoken with Ms.

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Seidman about putting into fees, and that was part of the what she was doing to increase her revenues and decrease the county share that she was anticipating. The Probation Department has informed me that for the people who are referred through the Probation Department to the Community Service that many of those individuals are already being charged a \$50 a head administrative fee. Therefore, they would not pay that fee again to the American Red Cross, that fee would be paid in Probation and a revenue to Probation, and not necessarily that they would collect from everyone.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

You have to remember that over 15% of our people come directly from the courts, they do not come through Probation. So we're now talking about the adult division, 15% of our if people are directly from the judge to Community Service as a conditional discharge or as an ACD. Those people are not supervised by Probation. Those people are solely supervised by the Community Service Program of Suffolk County.

LEG. NOWICK:

They're going to be paying the fees.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Yes, they would be -- yeah. So that has nothing to do with Probation, and, yes, we do not charge the fee because we understand Probation is charging the fee. So we would never do that to our people that are going through Probation.

LEG. NOWICK:

So that having been said, are the figures correct that I stated?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

We would be able to collect a fee, but I'm not sure. But certainly we'd still be \$200,000 less than Probation, whether or not it, you know, comes through or not, because they -- basically the judge -- you know, Senator Johnson said he would not give our \$86,000 to Probation, he's going to keep giving it to us. So basically our member item grants are going to continue to come through so that we can get the vans ans so that we can keep on doing this program.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:  
What did I just understand? You said that you -- I thought you contradicted yourself. You're sticking with the 200,000, but yet you get 15% direct, but you're not sure whether or not you're going to be able to collect fees, which is it?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
Well, we haven't started that yet, because we never needed to collect fees. Remember we've always been a free program.

LEG. HALEY:  
Well, how did it come -- what number does 15% represent?

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MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
As over 200 people are going to come through the program next year we project just on the CD --

LEG. HALEY:  
And that money you're going to charge --

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
We're not sure yet, depends on how much money you give us.

LEG. HALEY:  
So then we -- then it's safe to say that we're not sure about the 200,000.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:  
Absolutely. It's safe to say that we're not sure. There will be some part of that, but we're not sure about the 200,000.

LEG. HALEY:  
Thank you, Ellie. Thank you. Thank you. Potential reduction due to demo direct funding, what is that in your Budget Review report?

MS. DOERING:

That was the state funding. And the -- that was state funding that Ellie is now currently receiving. The number that's in there is misleading in that it also includes the 85 or \$86,000 member item. So that demo direct funding is about 209,000 and about 86,000 of that is the member item that was discussed.

LEG. HALEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

One final follow up. Could the County Youth Bureau, Youth Department, be the recipient of those state funds that are now going to different townships? Could it be a pass through?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

I imagine it could be.

LEG. FOLEY:

Since we're both local governments -- let me finish the point. Since we're both local governments, be it the County or the township, could either youth bureau be the recipient of those state funds?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Oh, absolutely. Any County department could be the recipient of our funds, because we are a pass through. If I just want to go back --

LEG. FOLEY:

So again, so that I fully understand this thing. If we're already paying almost \$300,000 for the juvenile program, we have one town that's receiving state monies of 18,000, we have other towns receiving

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some proportionate amount themselves. If we had, in fact, a let's say a consortium of interests where the County would be the recipient and then the County working with a County wide agency such as yours would

then say, well, here's what needs to be done in this particular township, here's what needs to be done in that particular town. That way I would think it's a more comprehensive and more coordinated approach. You don't loss a dollar, it's just that it's flowing through the main -- the main funder which is us, the County, as opposed to a township that is really a much smaller partner in the

overall scheme of things. And it would just -- I think it would just allow for a more coordinated, perhaps even a more effective approach on how those additional dollars from the state are utilized. And we've done pass throughs in many other instances. This might be one another one that we can do.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you. Are there any other question?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Can I just say for the record that we were originally under the criminal justice coordinating council, that was your original mandate where the pass through monies came from the coordinating council directly to the Red Cross. We were only put in the Probation Department seven years ago. But it's my understanding from the Budget Office that we could be in any County Department, the pass through monies from the County monies can go from the County General Fund to any County Department as long as there's a County Department monitoring us.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Ellie, one more thing. In the Budget Review's analysis of the two proposals, they have that the Probation Department could reduce the placement delays. What is -- how long does it take to get somebody in your program now, whether it be youth or adult?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Two weeks.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Two weeks.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

And we could do it -- I think -- well, Erica, you are the coordinator for the juvenile division placements, how long does it take to get the child from the time you interview them until the time you get them on the crew?

MS. TANNER:

Like a day.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

One day. I correct myself, one day.

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LEG. LINDSAY:

What kind of a backlog is there to have a crew do community service work or something like that?

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Do we have a backlog?

MS. TANNER:

No.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

No. We have no backlog. We have no placement delays, and we have  
a full functioning East End unit out operating out of the Southampton  
American Red Cross. So I don't know where this information came  
from,  
I'm sorry. Nobody asked us.

LEG. LINDSAY:

In one of my communities, the Chamber of Commerce wanted you guys  
to help with a walkway. They were told that you can't do it anymore.

MS. TANNER:

We helped with the walkway, yes.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Hold it. Hold it. You're going to have to come up to the microphone,  
please, and just identify yourself, and then we can get everything on  
the record.

MS. TANNER:

Erica Tanner, the juvenile coordinator for the crews. We did help  
with the walkway.

LEG. LINDSAY:

No, but there's some additional work that needs to be done there, and  
they came to me and said Red Cross said they can't do it anymore.

MS. TANNER:

With Warren {Rosser}?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Right.

MS. TANNER:

Yeah, we've can -- we can do it. I actually haven't spoken to him in  
a like a week or two, so I haven't been able to talk about it, but we

can.

LEG. LINDSAY:  
But you can do it?

MS. TANNER:  
Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:  
I'll have to get back to him, because I was looking to get some other volunteers to help out. Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
Okay. Thank you. Lynne Keenan.

MS. KEENAN:  
Hi. My name is Lynne Keenan, I'm a retired educator and I'm 36 year County resident. I'm also President of the Long Island District of the New York Associate of Family and Consumer Sciences. I'm speaking in opposition to the elimination of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County Family and Consumer Science Program as proposed by County Executive Gaffney. I will keep my presentation short and focused on the educational programs they present. I hope you'll forgive my alphabet soup if I abbreviate Cornell Cooperative Extension, CCE and Family and Consumer Sciences FACS. I'm

astounded

that the County Executive would propose to eliminate funding for a program that gets back \$3 for every dollar the County spends. It just doesn't make any sense. Educating people about parenting and nutrition is essential to the fabric of society as anything can be. Much of the CCE FACS Program is based on the powerful principle of educating a core group of people to educate other people. This multiplier effect enables them to reach the maximum audience.

Parenting is a responsible many people are not prepared for. The Parenting Education Program is a key to helping those people who are unprepared rear healthy well adjusted children so they become supportive members of our community. Where would we all be if we didn't have supportive families? Programs that educate parents have been reduced consistently in recent years. The CCE FACS Program has delivered parenting workshops that reach more than 4000 parents at sites from Western Suffolk to the twin forks. They sponsor training for over 12,000 -- 1200 professionals who work with an estimated 35,000 children. The CCE FACS Program offerings include the only family develop training program which results in credentials for family support professionals in our County.

In addition, CCE FACS has a myriad of other programs that include media campaigns, parenting tips, and on-site work shops for a diverse group of community organizations. Again, the economy of the multiplier effect in action. The other education core offering of CCE FACS is nutrition. We live in a world where TV and radio bombard us with adds for less than healthy foods. The number of obese adults has doubles, and the number of obese children tripled since 1982. We need every opportunity to counteract those unhealthy TV messages. CCE

FACS

Programs work with children and parents in groups setting throughout the county. While the programs reach all socioeconomic groups, the most challenging lessons are those that help limited income families make healthy decision with the small dollar allotment they have available.

The CCE FACS Program also benefits college students. The internship program is the only program on Long Island which provides field experience for college students seeking certification in community nutrition. Other 80 future professionals have been enriched by this experience. The Diabetes Education Program is another community education outreach program. In October of 2001, I was the Convention Chairperson, and one of the workshops presented to FACS professional, primarily teachers was by Christine Laidley, the CCE registered

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dietician. She explained basic facts about diabetes and how to help students function better with the disease. These teachers took this information back to their classrooms to educate about diabetes.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Lynne, I have to interrupt you. You're three minutes is up, if you can sum up.

MS. KEENAN:

Okay. In summary, it truly penny wise and pound foolish to cut a program that educates people of about two of the most fundamental elements of our lives; parenting and nutrition are keys to a healthy society. Furthermore, it is beyond simple logic to cut a program where every dollar that is cut will result in the loss of grants that total three addition dollars. I implore you to reinstate the funding for the CCE FACS Program to the budget for the 2003. Please let the powerful work of CCE FACS Program continue, it's good work. Thank

you

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you for coming down. Donna, this is Consumer, Governmental Operations, right --

MS. CATALANO:  
Vets and Education and Youth.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
Vets and Seniors. Okay. We are out of cards. If there is anyone else that wanted to address this combination of committees, I'd ask -- you just have to identify yourself for our stenographer.

MR. QUINN:  
Peter Quinn, Long Island Coalition for the Democracy. Let me first do macroeconomics. At the federal level you know that when Congress left with adopting only two of its 13 budget items for the year, and they're coming back in November, the likelihood is given the size of the federal -- the federal budget for defense, \$80 billion increase, that there's likely to be less for certain social kinds of services. You know at the state level, Majority Leader Bruno indicates there will be a \$10 billion revenue shortfall. The likelihood is you'll be getting less money from the state as well. So there's going to be some readjustments there. And there's going to be a triple whammy on energy. You're going to see fossil fuel cost rise if we go to war with Iraq. You're going to see the -- when KeySpan and LIPA didn't agree on the taking over of generating -- 53 generating plants last March, they said that they were going to take it up again early in 2003. We're going to see costs associated with that. And the two generating plants that may come online are going to negotiate contracts with LIPA over rates to be charged, consumers. So the County is going to see a cost increase on energy, and I was surprised that I didn't even see that as a separate item in the Budget Review Office's review report.

But I'd like to recommend a few thing. If the County Executive thinks he can get away with telling the Legislature that there should be 10% cuts in human services and not impose a cut on itself, then I urge this Legislature in its negotiations with the County Executive to

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encourage him to come out front and say a 10 or 15% decrease in how the County Executive's, not the County budget, but the County Executive's is arranged. In addition, it is called for filling vacancies after a summer in which all these people retired, seems absurd on its face. It would seem to me prudent except where vacancies must be filled to continue various Social Services there ought to be massive eliminations of those -- filling those vacancy -- vacant positions. And --

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:  
Mr. Quinn, I just have to interrupt you, you're three minutes is up. If you can sum up. Thanks.

MR. QUINN:

Okay. I've spoken before about the IDA. This year -- last year, the IDA spent 4.065 million on tax abatements, mortgage transfer eliminations and sales tax eliminations. Now, you have no control over what the executive does with the IDA, because that was a state created agency. However, you could call upon the County Executive in your negotiations to say, let's have a moratorium about giving away all those tax dollars. If you recouped 4.065 million from the IDAs which were given to 12 companies in the Year 2001, and by the way, County Executive Gaffney would rollover in his political grave if he knew that almost half those tax eliminations went to one company, the financial company called D -- ADP.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank goodness it wasn't ENRON, right?

MR. QUINN:

ADP which was created by the current candidate for Senate in New Jersey Frank Lautenberg, I think it would be very upsetting to him, despite the fact that it allegedly creates jobs. But to give one company over 40% of the tax abatements, over 60% of the sales tax eliminations and over 50% of the corporate loans that were given out seems to me absurd. I'll leave you with that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

We have a representative from the County Executive's Office, so I'm sure she'll convey that back to the County Executive. Thank you. Was there anybody else that wanted to address this committee? Seeing no one, we stand adjourned. Thank you very much.

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED ADJOURNED AT 3:15 P.M.\*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY