

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION & ENERGY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy 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, Smithtown, New York on **February 11, 2004** .

**Members Present:**

Legislator Lynne Nowick - Chairperson  
Legislator Angie Carpenter - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Peter O'Leary  
Legislator Jonathan Cooper  
Legislator Brian Foley  
Legislator Jay Schneiderman  
Legislator Vivian Vioria-Fisher

**Also in Attendance:**

Mea Knapp - Counsel to the Legislature  
Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator Nowick  
Fran Seims - Aide to presiding Officer Caracappa  
Maria Amiratti - Aide to Legislator O'Leary  
Carl Yellon - Aide to Legislator Crecca  
Eric Brown - Aide to Legislator Schneiderman  
Tom Donovan - Aide to Legislator Schneiderman  
Kara Hahn - Aide to Legislator Vioria-Fisher  
Ray Zacarro - Aide to Legislator Bishop  
Joe Schroeder - Budget Review Office  
Joe Muncy - Budget Review Office  
Roger Podd - County Executive's Office/Intergovernmental Relations  
Chuck Stein - SCCC/Vice-President of Business Affairs  
George Gatta - SCCC/Vice-President of Work Force & Economic Development  
Paul Cooper - SCCC/Executive Director of Facilities  
Jon DeMaio - SCCC/Administrative Director of Facilities

Bill Desimini - SCCC/Assistant Director-Corporate Training Center

Maureen David - SCCC/Corporate Training Center

All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

***(\*The meeting was called to order at 9:45 A.M. \*)***

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good morning and welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee meeting. I would like to start this morning with a salute to the flag and I would ask Legislator Schneiderman to begin with the salute.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you.

***Salutation***

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. First I would like to introduce new to our committee this morning Legislator O'Leary who has so graciously volunteered his time and changed his schedule so he could be with us; thank you, Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Today we have a discussion on the agenda from Keri Klockowski -- help me, Keri.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Klockowski.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

From the Child Care Council and she's going to speak to us on the economic benefits of child care. Come on up.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Good morning. Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak. My name is Keri Klockowski and I've been working with the Child Care Councils of Nassau and Suffolk now for about ten months and I was brought on to do this -- conduct this study, this economic impact statement that's in front of you. And the whole time of the project I have been working with {Dr. Warner Mildred} (sic) from Cornell University and Louise Stony, a consultant.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

We're laughing because I worked on this a little bit with the Child Care Council.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Okay. This study really looks at both Suffolk and Nassau counties regulated child care industry, and I just wanted to state that because we all know that there's a hidden child care industry, you know, that's not regulated. So this study just looks at those that we had registered with New York State through the Councils of both Suffolk and Nassau, so I'm sure that the numbers here are actually bigger; how much I can't tell because I can't measure.

In any case, I think the best thing to do is I could sort of go through the report quickly, give an overview and then allow time for questions and comments; and if there's a certain part that you want me to zoom in on I can definitely do that.

So just to start, increasingly states, counties and localities are recognizing the importance of child care and the impact it has on its regional economy. As part of this effort, researchers and policy makers are using traditional economic development methods to broaden public support and come up with real innovative financing solutions to this issue. And I like to think of it as there's three major prongs to the economic importance of child care; the first is the effect and the impact on regional economy, the second is the impact it has on parents and letting them actively pursue careers and going to work, and the third is the impact it has on children and the knowledge economy, here, now and tomorrow and the next so many years, it's our future work force.

So having said that, let's turn to the report and let's turn to -- it says page two but it's really the first page of the report after the title. And it does say draft but we are currently producing it right now, it's with the graphic designer so it's done and we just have to tinker with a few things so that the numbers and the quotes that you see in here are the real thing.

The first thing I want to highlight really -- again, on page two, the top right-hand side -- is the box, it says, "What is Long Island's child care industry." And I will tell you that it's a \$612 million industry; and again, this is a real conservative estimate. What the \$612 million figure represents, that's parent tuition pieces, that's all the checks Mom and Dad are writing over to the child care person, and that is government supports in one of two forms, subsidies or enhancement monies. And again, that's a \$612 million industry Island-wide. I do have all of the numbers in this crazy Excel Spreadsheet, so if you want to zoom in and get Suffolk's we can definitely do that too.

Continuing, out of my numbers there's 2,500 small businesses. Out of all the providers on the Island there's 2,500 of them and that's incredible to me. You know, they don't think of themselves as small business owners or as entrepreneurs, but the study might help them to be recognized and to recognize themselves, too, as this arch support in the economy. And continuing, that's 17,000 employees directly employed with the child care industry, that's providers, it's teachers, it's in those 200 -- 2,500 businesses, that's the people taking care of the kids; that's a lot of people. And as we'll see once we compare it to other industry, that beats out other industries that we might think traditionally on Long Island might exceed that. And according to our figures, over 74,000 children are enrolled, so that's a lot of little -- -- lots of children.

The second box I want to point out is on the left-hand side of the page and it's Employment by Industry, I just refer to this. If you quickly glance at that you'll see child care, the second from the bottom, at 17,000 employees, and anything above that from aircraft and missiles and engine parts to hotels and lodging, the residents, new residential structures and so on and so forth, they're all fewer in numbers of actual employees. So child care has one of the highest, just quantitatively, the numbers of employees in the industry.

Continuing, the number, the total number of the establishments, when we looked at the numbers we saw that most of those 2,500 were actually based in the home; however, most of

the children enrolled were enrolled in centers. So that's an interesting dynamic, there's more home-based establishments but most of the kids are in the centers, and that's simply because centers can hold more children than a home-based provider. But this also says -- a big thing I think about, our life-style here on Long Island that Mom and Dad or whoever is dropping the child off are more likely to zoom by a center and drop them off because they have extended hours. So, you know, there's more and more of a demand for child care centers. And this also says, this report pointed out that the centers are the main economic driving force behind the child care industry, most of the tuition is brought in by the centers so that's our engine. Out of all the different modalities, the small ones, the medium size and the large, our centers are which have the most children, they generate the most money. So it's very interesting.

If we turn to page three, the first point I would like to make is the box in the top right-hand side and it says, "Long Island Child Care Industry Revenues," and there's a pie chart. And what this pie chart is looking at is who is paying for child care, and from these figures you can see that 85% is coming out of the parent's pocket and 15% is coming from government's pocket. Now, I have to say that this 15% is higher in our situation than it is in a lot of other counties so this is a good thing, that 15% can go to six or 7%. And our study is one of like only 24 or 25 studies that have been done nationally, so we come out good in terms of -- or we come out higher than the other studies in terms of how much our government recognizes child care, so we're a step of ahead of the game.

But this pie chart really looks at child care the whole big issue, nationally what's going on and I sit there thinking, I'm like, "Wow, that means 85% is coming out of the parent's pocket." Now, I also know that the average cost of child care per year per child is ten to \$12,000, it's closer to 12 for the centers. And I also know according to some of the numbers we pulled from the Fiscal Policy Institute that the average Long Island wage is 40,000 and change. So if you're paying 10,000 for child care, 40,000 you're pulling in, that's 25% right there so that scares me. Again, it just -- there's a real issue here and I'm not sure how to change this pie chart, but this pie chart is changing, that 15 and 85% and is really our goal. And we're all working on this nationally, but to look at that and say, "My goodness, how can we make that happen?" I'll suggest -- I'll share with you some ideas that have come about from the other areas that have done this study and from the professors that are working on this, it's interesting to see where they are now.

Continuing, down at the bottom of this page three we can see the economic linkages of child care, it's the box on the left-hand side. And child care services have what economists call the multiplier effect of 1.92; that means for every additional dollar that is spent in the child care industry we generate an additional 92 cents. In my mind I think of it as a return on investment; you spend a dollar, you get \$1.92 back and that money stays on Long Island.

Now, this is fascinating. If you look, again, this chart, if you look at all the different industries on top, you can compare their multipliers and child care has one of the highest, and what that is saying theoretically is that child care is a local, economic industry. What is spent on child care on Long Island stays here. The other industries might have more of an export effect, but child care is just right here, it's here and it doesn't go anywhere, we don't export any of it, it just exchanges hands. And the only other industries really that would beat out something like child care are real localized, real concentrated industries. Like on this chart and graph we said the radio and TV broadcasting, that's ours, you know, that belongs on Long Island, or regional transportation like the Long Island Railroad, all that transportation, it's here.

The impact -- the pebble -- I was using the analogy of throwing a pebble into a pond and watching the ripple effect. And what.

{Dr. Mildred Warner} (sic) explained to me is that throwing the pebble into the pool or into the pond, if you have a multiplier effect of 1.92, that's a big rock and it just sinks to the bottom and it just ripples right there, versus an industry that might be smaller in size, but I think that helps to actually understand what is going on with that. The more I look into this, I'm just fascinated by the impact that it actually has here locally on Long Island.

Let's flip to page four and this is where we've sort of drawn out an illustrated ripple effect that I was just talking about. If you go down to the sort of diagram, in the middle of the page there's a box that talks about Long Island investments, that's a local piece of six point -- six million and that is enhancement monies and it's also subsidy monies, and then State and Federal subsidies are close to 59 million. So what that is really saying is that the local investment of six million is leveraging close to 60 million in State and Federal monies, so that money we're spending locally is bringing down all of this State and Federal money that was not here, so it's bringing down new, fresh money into the economy. And if you multiply, if you apply that 1.92 multiplier effect I was just talking about, you break it on down, you do the math, it comes out to \$113.2 million impact, that's the size of the ripple that I was just talking about.

And the brilliance or the real intriguing part about this industry is it's quiet, I call it the silent industry. There are 2,500 business owners, small business owners that are quiet and they don't talk of themselves and they're busy in their day, what they do, and they're not pulled together I think so they lose their voice. But when you do a study like this and you clump them altogether and do the math and say, "Boom, check out this impact," it's amazing to sit there and see what the numbers are telling you. And -- it's just fascinating.

And I can tell you this, that the numbers on Long Island, we beat out the whole State of Kansas. And I'm interested -- I want to go back, now that the study is done, I want to go back and see where we fall into the different regions nationally and State and take different looks and different slices at it to see where we might fit up with the other people.

And I guess the last part on this page that I want to bring out is that working parents -- this is, again, one of the three pillars that I was referring to, the parents piece. And working parents who have child care, they bring in -- and this is real conservative -- 4.4 billion annually. Now, we're not claiming that we are responsible for all of that, but definitely a part of that happens because child care exists as a piece of infrastructure.

The rest of the report generally is summary piece and recommendations, but I think at this time, if anybody has questions I'd like to address those or wants me to clarify something, I'd be happy to do that. And I have also clipped my card to the report, so if something comes up later and if you want me to, again, zoom in on something or explain something a little deeper, I can definitely do that.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Just quickly, when you talk about the industry, child care services, you say the industry, that's not nursery schools at all, right?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Nursery schools are not regulated by us, but we had some of them in our data bases.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So is that included in these numbers?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Yes, it is. And what we did is out of the nursery schools that we had in both Nassau and Suffolk, we worked with State regulated ratios to come up with the figures and that, so yes, that is included in here. Yes, it's nursery schools, it's after school programs, it's the centers, the large centers I was talking about, it's the family providers, group families and what we call small legal two's, somebody can only have two other children in their home.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And the economic linkage --

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

-- 1.92.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I'm not sure I understand that, that linkage. For every dollar you spend on child care you get a dollar back and the 92 cents over that, is what you're are saying?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

You get 92 cents on top of it. The total impact is 1.92 and what that's saying is out of a dollar that you'd spend, it generates 92 cents in that ripple effect. In other words, if a provider was to spend a dollar at -- a dollar on just say equipment, business equipment, they're spending that and they're handing off -- or the total impact is \$1.92 because that provider can then take -- or the vendor can take the dollar that the provider gave him and the total impact is 1.92. It's money exchanging hands, it's --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

It's kind of unclear to me, I don't know if any of my colleagues understand that, but if anybody has any questions.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Keri, didn't we that say that it's because -- when you presented this before the Child Care Council, the parents pay a dollar in child care, to the child care center, the people who work in the child care center are spending their money in the local economy.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Uh-huh.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

So for that dollar that's spent, you have all of it coming back plus the people who are working there are spending beyond just that dollar that you have spent, bringing --

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Right.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Keeping it in the economy, bringing more money into the economy.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Uh-huh.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

If I remember the person from Cornell Cooperative also explaining that. All of the industries have this economic indicator, multiplier effect.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

And it's a standard practice of how that money translates into being put back into the same economic structure. And in child care, because you have employers who are employing local people and not bringing in a lot of exports from other parts of the country or bringing -- I mean sending out a product, the products stays in here, the workers spend the money locally and so the multiplier effect is very high in keeping the money right here in the local economy.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Legislator Schneiderman?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you. First let me say thank you for this report, I find it very helpful. And thank you for presenting this in an economic development perspective because we often think of child care services in a health and human services perspective and I think it's important to understand the role it plays in our Suffolk County economy, particularly when you understand the economic conditions and how with the cost of housing and the expenses in Suffolk County that it really -- at this point, it's almost essential that both parents in the family work and so day-care becomes a necessity.

I have a certain amount of personal experience here having one child one year's old who's in a home day-care provider and then another child who's four years old who's in a preschool. In my case, living in Montauk, there is no public -- even though she's four years old. Some of the public schools have preschool programs that are free if you live within that area, my hamlet does not have that. I guess my first question is did you look at public school provisions for preschool and why is it that some areas have it and some do not?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

I didn't look at that, but I -- after looking at this, of course I started getting more interested in the continuing education for little kids, from birth to five, I started really figuring out what do we have in supply and demand and what's going on and where the gaps are. I did not look at that but I would be very interested in doing that.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. My second question gets to the cost, and I'm looking forward to hearing your recommendations. In East Hampton we have an East Hampton Day-Care Center and that's where my first child when she was a little younger went, and the cost at that point was some \$250 a week. And my wife and I did a little evaluation and we reached the point where we were just breaking even in keeping our -- you know, in terms of my wife making the decision to either stay home or go back to work. It's high, that's a lot of money, that's a thousand dollars a month, \$12,000 a year and that's after tax so, you know, you've got to make a lot of money just to pay that and wages, you know, not all the wages in our area really make it make sense

to do that.

So, you know, one of the things I want to look at is how do we bring the costs of day-care down, particularly if you have more than one child, suddenly you're paying \$400 a week or more for child care services; that's a lot, that's a big burden. We want to make it make sense for that second person be able to -- we want to make the numbers work so that that second person can go out and work a job, so I think that's important. Maybe do you have some insight as to what is making the cost of day-care so high and how can we bring that number down.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

That's the pie chart I was talking about, this is our goal right here, this is the trick. If anyone can figure this out, this is the million dollar question, is figuring out how to take that cost that parents are paying down. And this is great, I loves this; Mildred was working with me and she explained to me why child care is such an -- it's not really an expensive industry. Their wages are low, their per hour wages are lower than they should be and they're doing an incredible duty to society, but the cost of inputs are generally labor driven. So in other industries, if you're producing widgets and -- just say you're producing cars, you can look at the cost of inputs and bring those things all down and figure out how to work economies of scale to pull the cost of the service down. In child care you're just basically working with -- the elements driving the cost of child care are provider and either one or two, or three depending on ratios that are mandated from the State, and there's few other costs, there's food and some supplies but those are minimal. So in order to pull down the cost of service, you're going to have to tinker really with the salaries of child care people and you can't do that, they're already stretched, they're already maxed out in terms of ratios.

So this is -- I don't have a solution and, in fact, everybody I've been working with does not have a solution, we're trying to scratch our heads and say, "Okay, how can we look at the Child Care Council or the child care industry and install different economies of scale." Maybe it is by uniting the 2,500, you know, child care employees, having them join some kind of co-op type thing where they can go and buy bulk because they're part of a bigger team. Because like I said, this is a silent industry, so many of these providers don't even know the other one exists and I always said, I wish I could stand on one end of the Island and say, "Would all you child care providers stand up and look, you know, at each other," and they say, "Oh my goodness, what's going on?" And this is a great potential for the work force development and small business strengthening and all this economies of scale corruption. So this is a market failure but it's just

due to the nature of the business. So that would be the solution, is to scratch our heads and come up with something like economies of scale.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You know, what amazed me in East Hampton where most of my experience is is that the town is giving \$100,000 a year to the day-care center and yet these costs are still high. You know, it's a decent subsidy and they get subsidies from other places. I did notice in my community, in my district there is a growing amount of home day-care and a lot of it is unlicensed, a lot of it is under the table which is not in your report.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

It's not, you're right.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You know, and I'm not familiar with the licensing requirements and are they an obstacle to creating more home day care. I guess what my real question is when you talk about how do we promote day-care, shouldn't we be going in the direction of increasing the number of centers of day care or should we be trying to help the home day-care provider; which is more efficient and which is easier to get going of those two paths?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

That's a really good question. And again, some of it is parental choice, so the type of care you get in a home-based situation is different than a center. But what one is easier to ramp up and get going? You know, I would say we're seeing centers pop up.

My Executive Director is both Jan Barbieri and Janet Walerstein who is the Executive Director of Child Care Council of Suffolk, she could speak to this. And I would be happy to find out her comments, she couldn't be here today, but I would be happy to find out her comments and address those if we were going to pinpoint one and focus in what would it be. And my report says that most of the kids are enrolled in centers, so you would think, hmm, maybe we need to devise a solution that pinpoints those centers and works quality child care in those. But yet, if child care providers are popping up, these smaller units all over the Island where it's more conducive, you know, for the family relations, or if it's more convenient rather for families, I don't know, maybe we need a two-prong approach.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

If you had the numbers on the unlicensed providers, you might find that more children are actually being --

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

I know.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

-- served at home. In my situation in East Hampton, there's a 200 person wait list at the East Hampton Day Care.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's a big wait list, so people are looking for other options and I think a lot of it is under ground, I know a lot of it is under ground. Maybe we can figure out a way of getting some of the under ground day care provision to be brought into the system so that we know that kids are in safe conditions and, you know, we can aid some of those providers and provide the best quality of service.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

I absolutely agree. In fact, I would love to see more people step up and get regulated so that we could coach them or help them out with the small business unifying in a whole economies of scale. Because to me it does no good for anybody involved to have these dark -- or to have this other market that we don't know about and that's unregulated. And if we can only find somebody, like you said, just to pull them in, encompass them underneath this big industry and then work with them and help support them, that would be the way to go.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

What I'm thinking with this unlicensed, also uninsured centers that are under ground, would there be any benefit to an all out campaign to educate the public and to these moms and say, you know, "Your children are in centers that are not licensed and this is probably" -- you know,

these are their most prized possession, their children, so maybe a campaign, an education campaign.

And the other point I wanted to make was that you spoke about getting all of these child care providers together, a way of getting them together and forming kind of a consortium, if you will.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Does -- there's got to be a way on the Internet to get all the names of the people in Suffolk and Nassau County and perhaps lobby them as well.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Yeah. Actually, we have all of their names, we have all of their information if they're registered and licensed and we do -- and some of them are more technologically savvy than others so it's all over the place in terms of that, but we can definitely -- we have the capabilities to lobby or to go and outreach to the cluster of providers that are underneath.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I think if, you know, you can entice them with the ability to bulk purchase, to buy group health care insurance, to buy group insurance in general for the facility, it might bring their cost down considerably. So I would think that they would come forward to join a collective like that if such a collective existed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Maybe you can get involved the under ground people and say, "Hey, you know, it's not as much as you think," and then you've got the blessing.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Right.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes, thank you. Your report indicates that there's over 74,000 children enrolled in child care?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Uh-huh.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Have you ever done an analysis or a breakdown on the age bracket of those 74,000, are the majority of them predominantly preschool or -- what's the breakdown by age with respect to the children who are under child care?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

You know, I have those numbers and I'd be happy to share those with you. I can tell you -- I can get them. I can tell you, though, in general the supply and demand, all of our infant and toddler slots are filled, all of our school-aged are filled and there's waiting lists; it's the three to four year olds that we have more capacity to serve.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

So it would be safe to assume that the vast majority of the child care or the children under child care are preschool, is that what you're saying?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

You know what, let me check with the numbers because the ratios -- you can have more slots for three and four year olds, with infants and toddlers you can only have -- the ratios are smaller, you're only allowed a fewer number. Would you like me to get that?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, because I'd be interested in finding -- well, you don't have to do it right now, sit and relax. At what point in time do the parents not need the child care assistance?

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

When they're 25.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Twenty-five or 30 someone said, yeah; and I can attest to that, I have -- you know, never mind, I'm not going to go there.

But I'm interested in just seeing those numbers, if you will, perhaps after the meeting if you have them give to me.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Sure.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

What the breakdown is?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Sure.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Fisher, Vioria-Fisher.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you for being here, Keri, it's good to see you again. As Legislator Schneiderman mentioned, he has the experience of having had personal experience with child care. Well, I have five children so you can well imagine that I have some experience with child care, and at one point I was paying more for my youngest child's child care than I was for my oldest child's college tuition. And why would someone who is spending that much of their income on child care see that as an economic -- see it that it's economically viable.

There was once an article in Working Mother Magazine in which working mothers were advised that although it's taking a great deal of your salary when you're making X number of dollars, in three or four years that child will be entering school, your income will hopefully continue to go up and your child care expenses will continue to go down so it's a personal investment in that early time which is very difficult.

The parents who are finding the most difficulty is parents transitioning into the job market and our Welfare-to-Work scenario. Primarily when you talked about government subsidies, that was the major area where the government subsidies occurred, wasn't it, the vouchers for people receiving public assistance.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

(Shook head yes).

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

You can't just nod your head because --

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Oh, yes.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

It's hard for the stenographer to write nod. We had tried several years ago, when there was a Child Care Provider Enhancement Program here in Suffolk County, where we did provide some grants for teachers who continued to develop their training and education and they were able to access a grant that we had but because of budgetary issues that was not continued.

And I tried to go out to the business community with a program we were calling the Earns Program wherein -- by the way, there are other municipalities who are doing this I believe in the triangle area in North Carolina, they are -- there is a partnership, a private/public partnership where businesses have seen in that area which was a robust, very fast growing economy that they needed child care to improve, to grow and meet the demand that they were finding with young families going to that area. Businesses contributed to the pot in those areas, in that area of economic development, and businesses have more and more seen that child care is an important part of their business investment. We see it in large companies like Symbol or Computer Associates where they have child care centers within their own facilities. And so to ask businesses to become partners in the investment in child care is not that far afield, it's not that far off. So I'm happy to here East Hampton is so forward thinking in subsidizing child care issues.

With regards to home base, I wanted to ask you a couple of things. When I have spoken anecdotally with individual child care providers, in fact, one who was watching a couple of my

children who was not licensed at that time, why did I choose to go to her? She was a neighbor, I trusted her and I knew that my children would be cared for by somebody I had known in the neighborhood. What was her fear? Fear of regulation, what would it mean to be regulated. These are sometimes people who have not -- who don't see themselves as business people, who are very independent, who don't want to have this -- who are afraid of what it would cost them to create the kind of center that might be demanded from them.

The second thing is the onerous paperwork. I have also seen home care providers who have wanted to become licensed and it's an incredible amount of paperwork that they have to do. Keri, you have some experience with that, don't you, with what it takes to go from --

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Yeah, it's -- in terms of time, it can take anywhere from six to 12 months and the paperwork is just out of control. It goes--

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Can you look at streamlining that process?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

I was just writing -- I was going to actually -- I'm curious to see what the actual fee is for somebody to get regulated, what the average cost is.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And also, I think part of it is when the government gives a consent or when there's a license, you're talking about somebody's children, so they dot every "I" I believe and cross every "T", because whatever business there is, this is probably the most precious.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Right.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

The most sensitive. And {Dana Freidman}, I believe that's her last name, had done some work on that, looking at that, and there are people looking at that licensing process and how that could be streamlined and still provide the safety net we need for our children.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Did the providers go to some kind of --

**MS. MAHONEY:**

Please use your microphone.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm just curious, do the providers go to some kind of class to get regulated?

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

The Child Care Council provides instruction as well as other venues for people to have instruction and classes on helping them to get through the licensing procedure.

Another thing that happens is that people who are child care providers become very attached to their babies. I spoke with one woman recently whom I met at just an area get together and asked her about becoming licensed, you know, recommended it to her and we talked about it and she said, "Well, they want me to just have two babies. Now what do I do with the other one that I'm watching, the parents will be out in a lurch and they won't have anybody to watch that baby," and there's a loyalty that develops. The woman who watched my son still keeps in touch with him and he's 26 years old because she watched him when he was quite young. People are afraid of the cost of insurance, the cost of, you know, what will they wind up being -- having as a take home; don't forget, this is tax-free money for some people who are just watching. You know, so it is an underground economy and you always have that situation.

Now, the argument to that, and this is something that I have brought up to these women, is that they will be investing in their own retirement. You know, although they see it as having to pay taxes, they will have business expenses that would be legitimate business expenses that they could deduct, their clients would be encouraged to -- they would have clients who would be encouraged to use them because if you have a child in child care, that's a tax deduction. And by the way, that's more money going into our local economy, okay, because you do have the tax break when you are paying for child care. And these child care providers would also be putting money into their own Social Security benefits.

So there are a lot of arguments. There has been a lot of education but it's hard to get everybody on board because they're afraid of regulation, they're afraid of what it would cost

them, they're afraid of losing the clients they currently have. And many of these people do provide a safety net of familiarity to their clients. As I said, I mean, Carol was a woman who babysat kids in my neighborhood for ages, recently she has become certified or regulated; I don't want to use the right term. There are so many terms, by the way, there are so many terms that are used, there's licensed and certified, that the providers themselves don't even know what level of certification they're in, it's very complex.

And the costs, by the way, are driven by mandates which we can't complain about, you don't want to have a provider taking care of five infants. There are health and safety issues about a person who changes one baby's diaper can't -- you know, there have to be processes they go through before they go and change another baby's diaper, you know. The feeding, the care, it's a very regulated industry for very good reason.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

(Inaudible).

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

There's a lot involved and so it is difficult to get a handle on it. But people like Keri, the Child Care Council, a newly formed group that's working on child care and the economic impacts I think is doing really good work. This study is really the beginning and I thank Keri because she's done a tremendous amount of work on this; thank you, Keri.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You know, Keri, it sounds to me, after listening to Legislator Viloría-Fisher, that would be another way to get the attention of these smaller, private homes that are doing favors, if you will, for neighbors taking in three or four kids, somehow getting that word out. Come to us, we'll show you how to get through the process, we'll show you how to be insured, we'll show you how to -- maybe that would be another way to bring about more child care. There are a lot of women I'm sure that would be interested in the field, work out of your own house, three children, four children, it would help these women make a little money, do the job properly and also help their neighbors when they go to work, you know, "I need a place to bring my children,

I can trust you." So that might be a way. Legislator Schneiderman, you wanted to have one more final word?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I did. I had a question about the government funding, it's come up as an issue. We talked about, you know, the money East Hampton was putting in, and actually in East Hampton we so considered child day-care to be a way of retaining the community, you know, the young families within the community. That we felt it was a proper investment for municipal government to not only subsidize day care but we actually -- we're building a brand new day-care center and then going to bring in a provider. But you talked about the subsidies but I didn't see a breakdown of where they're coming from, how much is municipal, how much is County, how much is State, how much is Federal. Is there any County funds that subsidize day-care or no; do you know?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Yeah. Again, I've got all of the numbers with me and I'd be happy to go through and pull out exactly what it is. Are there any local monies -- yes and I can share those with you if anybody else is interested.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. Because I'm also, you know, particularly interested in not just the low income subsidies for day-care because, you know, I find middle income people also are struggling. You know, you talk about 25% of their income going to day care and 40% maybe going to housing, you find that there's really nothing left to go to the movies or to go on -- you know, to save for college. That pie quickly gets cut up so I think across the board we need to find ways to lower the cost, not just for people at the bottom but for the people in the middle. So I would be interested in hearing more from you in the future as to how we can -- you know, whether it's through supplementing more home day-care providers, how we can attack this so that we can bring down those costs across the board.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Fascinating, and I hear that. The more I look at this it is, it's a middle class issue; it's two parents trying to work, having to work and it's expensive. And yesterday, actually, just in an information session with the Council, I was talking, addressing the group of people, about 35 new individuals who are interested in starting their own businesses, and I just looked at the individuals who were in that room, Master's Degrees and they are just struggling to make ends

meet. And they just decided, stay home, watch their kid and two other neighborhood kids or something and just make it work. And I started telling them, I said, "Do you need small business assistance? Maybe we can, you know" -- how can we work this? How can we -- and yes, it is definitely an issue of the lower incomes and also middle income and you know what, it takes a lot to not have that cost, it takes a huge income

To not feel the impact of child care. So I definitely am interested in figuring out how we get through this.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Madam Chair, if i could, just one more comment.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yeah, just one final question from me. Do you work together at all with the college, Suffolk Community College? I know they have a program now for HVAC. Are there any programs in the college that train and teach students that there is a market out there to be a child care provider, there is a way to start your own business and this is how we do it and we train at our college here?

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Yes. Again, I'm probably not the person who knows the most about this at the Council but there's different classes that are offered I think at Farmingdale.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

But not a class, I mean an actual -- like the new unit --

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

If I may, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Sure.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

The Child Care Council offers that.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That's what I want to know.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

There are courses at Suffolk Community College, Stony Brook University, Adelphi, there are -- we have a good many programs in the County, but the Child Care Council does offer that training available to people and it's very successful.

There's something else that you mentioned that is already going on and that is seeing the child care provider as an entrepreneur, as a small business person. And the Child Care Council does do exactly what you suggested, they do invite people to come in and teach them entrepreneurship, but they do that in partnership with the Community Development Corporate, CDC.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Uh-huh, CDC.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Who provides low interest loans, I think, they help them economically to set up the small business, so this is already occurring.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And they get into the college and tell these students in the college, this small business, how you set up this kind of a small child care business?

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I don't know if the CDC gets into the college, but there are partnerships that are working now to get people to start these small business.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Because I will tell that a lot of people -- we all know these words, we work in the County. Most of the population of Suffolk and Nassau might go to their local schools and colleges for education, they don't know these and they're never going to know, so we need to bring it from the Child Care Council to the schools to the students I think. Thank you. Thank you very much.

**MS. KLOCKOWSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I see we do not have any other discussions. Joe, did you want to tell us anything about the LIPA surcharge, do you have something printed up you want to give out to us, did you want to address that at all?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

I have a memo that I have been preparing regarding the board meeting that LIPA held yesterday, it's still a work in progress, I'll get that out to you later today. The gist of it is that yesterday LIPA approved its 2004 Capital and Operating Budgets. They also approved a modification to their -- tariff modification of last year that will allow them to amortize \$70 million of unrecovered fuel and purchase power costs from 2003 over the next ten years. They will be collecting \$370 million over a ten year period at a rate of \$37 million a year, that will reflect unrecovered costs to date out of a total of over 500 million of excess fuel and purchase power costs that they haven't recovered that they have expensed or absorbed, that they won't be seeking recovery of.

What was interesting about yesterday's meeting was that Chairman Kessel proposed that LIPA would prepare a base rate modification that they will submit to the Public Service Commission for review that will move -- it will not result in an increase in cost of electricity to consumers, it will simply reapportion some of the costs currently recovered in the fuel and purchase power surcharge, two base rates.

To the extent that that happens, it may be a question of semantics because these are costs that are recoverable by every regulated utility in the State through the surcharge mechanism.

What's interesting about that is it would be the first time that LIPA would be submitting charges to customers to review to the Public Service Commission since they were formed, so it could be revealing; that would be a plus.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So you are going to have a report for us in writing?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

I prepared a brief memo which is still, again, a work in progress. It's going to be accompanied by a spreadsheet that we put together in BRO regarding a history of the fuel and purchase power surcharges that.

Hopes to illustrate clearly the history of those surcharges and where those costs have --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Somehow I get the feeling there's just no way around it, it's going to cost us money.

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

There is no way around this. Costs, energy costs nationally are on the rise, even locally. Earlier this year I attended a Public Service Commission hearing for a proposed rate increase for the Freeport Electric Utility, they were filing for an 18% rate increase, they actually submitted a proposal for a rate increase to the PSC back in April of 2003 and during the course of the remainder of the year worked with staff at PSE to review why they needed that increase. And at the January public hearing there was a joint statement from PSE staff and the Village of Freeport Electric both supporting the 18% rate increase.

So, I mean, there is just an increase in energy costs and that is something that we will bear as consumers.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

It does sound that way. Okay, I think I can say thank you. Anybody else have any questions? Okay.

If there's anybody else that wants to -- anybody from the college or anything we have to know about, you can certainly come up. If not, we'll go on to the agenda.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Madam Chair, after we hear from this representative from the college,.

I would like to ask the other representatives of the college if they're prepared today -- if not today then at the next committee meeting, Madam Chair -- but if not today by the next committee meeting to give us an overview of the impact of the proposed State budget on the community college, both on the operating costs as well as the proposed Capital Program. It's one of the things that I'm putting together now but certainly we can make it a committee wide Sense Resolution.

For instance, just on the face of it, I understand that there's a \$1.8 million cut in FTEA to the college by the governor's budget, proposed budget, and I think it would be well for us as a committee and as a Legislature certainly to oppose these cuts. So I'll leave it to you, whether today Mr. Stein is available to give us an overview of that or whether it be for the next meeting, but I would like us as a committee to take a position on the proposed cuts.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Excuse me; if I could, Legislator Foley. I don't know, you may have stepped out of the room, but at the last meeting I suggested that as a committee we do just that and that bill has already been --

**LEG. FOLEY:**

I was unavailable at the last meeting.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Oh, okay. So that bill has already been filed.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

As a committee bill?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Yes, uh-huh.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Good, very good.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Do it list all the different proposed cuts?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

(Inaudible).

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

But it lists -- all right, we need -- it lists what's being proposed to be cut, correct, or is it just more of a generalized statement?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We'll get you a copy of the legislation.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Can we hear from Counsel on it?

**MS. KNAPP:**

My recollection is that it's a Sense bill that does not list specific cuts in the budget but does ask the Legislature to restore all the funding. There were two Sense Resolutions -- as a matter of fact, I worked with George Gatta from the colleges in preparing them -- and one dealt with the TAP, decrease in TAP or the -- I guess it's the deferment of TAP aid.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Right.

**MS. KNAPP:**

And the other dealt with -- and it sounds as though Mr. Stein is going to address either or one of those, no?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

And if there's anything in addition to those things that we need to be on the record on.

**MS. KNAPP:**

And also --

**MR. STEIN:**

It would just take a few seconds to go over what the cuts were. The proposed budget reduced the FTE aid by a \$115 per FTE, from 2,300 down to 2,185. Additionally, the proposed budget proposed that TAP awards be awarded at the rate of two-thirds of the TAP award at the time the student is attending, and that the last third be provided to the student upon graduation, and

everything else remained constant from this year. Those are the two elements, basically.

**MR. GATTA:**

They were both addressed in the resolution..

**LEG. FOLEY:**

And they both were addressed in the Sense Resolution that was approved.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Foley, they were both addressed. And also, I met with Dr. Pippins and she's already been to Albany to lobby, so it's well on its way.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

As far as the Capital Program, were there any things left out of the Capital Program that was proposed by the college in past years?

**MR. STEIN:**

All of our existing projects are again in the Executive Budget for renewal. I would like to point out that this past week SUNY did request information from the college for projects that we were seeking that have not been funded by the State, so we provided that information. I'm hopeful about that, I don't know what it means.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Madam Chair, could we have a copy of that correspondence? Madam Chair, could we have a copy of that correspondence through you to the committee members?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Certainly.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

What Mr. Stein just mentioned.

**MR. STEIN:**

I'll get that to the Chair and to you.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Okay, thank you. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yeah. Also, now Maureen David would like to address the committee.

**MS. DAVID:**

Good morning. Thank you for allowing me to be here. I just wanted to take a few minutes to give you a little bit of background on the Adult Basic Education Grant that you have on your agenda today. And I work for the Corporate Training Center of Suffolk Community College, our mission in economic development is to go out and visit local companies and try to address their needs in terms of training, and in some instances we can secure grants for them as well.

One of the needs that we identified was lack of English language speaking skill among Suffolk County businesses. And in order to address that need, we asked the New York State Education Department to help us provide training to local companies and they did that through a grant opportunity that we responded to this past summer and was approved in September through the one stop employment system on Long Island. And we -- there's a little printout that I attached. Some of the numbers of students that will be helped in the companies that we have outreached to on Long Island, we've only had about three months time to outreach to companies but we have already had a very large response.

I outlined some of the things that a program like this addresses in terms of worker safety in terms of productivity and companies having problems in production when they can't communicate properly with their staff. And that's about all I have.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Great.

**MS. DAVID:**

I don't know if you had any questions.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Are you reaching out to any child care small businesses?

**MS. DAVID:**

Actually we have an Entrepreneurial Assistance Program under the Corporate Training and Economic Development Department and they do work with small businesses to try to develop a business plan and address some of the issues in terms of setting up an accounting system and those kinds of things for a small business. So yeah, we do have that outreach as well.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you.

**MS. DAVID:**

Uh-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**MS. DAVID:**

Okay, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

If there is nothing further, I will go to the agenda.

**MR. STEIN:**

Excuse me.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Uh, he's back.

**MR. STEIN:**

I'm back. I just wanted to discuss what's being handed out right now. This is a form that was requested by SUNY which asked about certain projects and I want to explain it to you.

The top projects, if you recall last year the Legislature placed into the Capital Program two projects in the subsequent year portion that we feel are vitally important because of the growing enrollment; we're seeking State support for those. I think it was very -- a positive development

that they have asked for this information now and we've listed it as having local sponsor support and we're seeking State support.

The bottom portion, it's a little bit early but these are two projects that we are requesting this year in our Capital submissions and they have not as yet been given support by the County or by the State, but we're listing them because we are requesting it with this year's submission.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Madam Chair? If I may, through the Chair, the top two projects, those are long-term projects; is there any indication given -- it's my understanding that as in prior years there have been delays in approval by the State for Capital Projects that we have submitted. While we have this today, can you give us either a time line chart, maybe at the next meeting or when there's a Capital Program presentation by this committee. Madam Chair, in years past when it was Health and Education, what we used to do -- whether in the March meeting or the April, but usually the March meeting -- we would have a presentation made by the Capital Project side of the college that would give us a time line for projects that were approved by us, by the State, whether it's two years down the line before it's going to be constructed, five years down the line. Whether or not, as has happened in the past, SUNY -- the Dormitory Authority would delay funding pursuant to direction from the Governor's Budget Office. So these are things that we would need to know I think by March if not no later than April so that we can try to also advocate again not just on the operating side of the college but also on the capital Budget side..

**MR. STEIN:**

We could have that for you at the next meeting.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

That's with the approval of the Chair, if that's something that -- I think it would be instructive.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That would be fine.

**MR. STEIN:**

Okay.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, we will go to the agenda.

**Introductory Resolutions**

***1071-04 - Accepting and appropriating a grant award from the New York State Education Department of an Adult Basic Education and Literacy Services Program at the Hauppauge One-Stop Center 100% reimbursed by Federal funds at Suffolk County Community College (County Executive).***

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion to --

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Second and put on the consent calendar.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

IR -- all in favor? Opposed? Nobody. **Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).**

***1072-04 - Accepting and appropriating a grant award from the New York State Education Department of an Adult Basic Education and Literacy Services Program at the Patchogue One-Stop Center 100% reimbursed by Federal funds at Suffolk County Community College (County Executive).***

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Also the --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Consent calendar, we'll put it on the consent calendar. All in favor? Opposed? ***Motion approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

***IR 1076-04 - Appropriating funds in connection with environmental health and safety college wide (CP 2131)(County Executive).***

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All in favor? Opposed? ***Motion approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

***IR 1077-04 - Appropriating funds in connection with improvement/ replacements to roofs at various buildings college wide (CP 2137) (County Executive).***

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All in favor? Opposed? ***Motion approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

***1091-04 - To streamline and consolidate County government by eliminating separate County Department of Aviation (County Executive).***

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Motion.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Yeah, I'll support that tabling motion. I know there is not a Commissioner of Economic Development in place and I think this is something that we should have some input on that department before we move forward with this. So I'll second that tabling motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All in favor?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, you know, the first problem is that in the current budget all these salaries are in a department that doesn't exist, it just says Department of Aviation. Last year the Legislature didn't create the department, so everything is operating now under Economic Development. And just, you know, to clear the books up, you really need to shift these things back to Economic Development, unless later on, you know, there's plans to be the creation of the Department of Aviation.

You know, I think what's interesting about this is there is -- it was brought to my attention last week, there is one position that's missing which is the Assistant Airport Manager in this shift which means that -- I don't understand exactly. Right now the airport, Gabreski is being managed by an Assistant Airport Manager and that position no longer exists but the Airport Manager position which is unfilled is still there, so I guess that would mean there's a proposed change in the management of the airport. But I think this resolution does need to move forward so, you know, I'm not going to vote in favor of tabling it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We have a motion to table and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Opposed.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Opposed.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We have four opposed to the tabling (***Vote: 3-4-0-0 Opposed: Legislators Foley, Vilorio-Fisher, Cooper & Schneiderman***).

So do I have another motion?

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Well, we had a motion to approve.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

I will abstain.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

One abstention, one opposed, and I'm opposed. Motion carries.

***Approved (Vote: 4-2-1-0 - Opposed: Legislators Nowick & O'Leary - Abstained: Legislator Carpenter).***

I don't see any other business and I guess the meeting is adjourned.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I would just like to thank you for inviting Keri to come down, that was such a good presentation. I really appreciate that you followed up on that.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

It was great.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Thank you, Keri.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M. \*)***

***Legislator Lynne Nowick, Chairperson  
Economic Development, Higher Education  
& Energy Committee***

***{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically***