

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

***Of the***

***Suffolk County Legislature***

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York, on August 2, 2007.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Eli Mystal - Chairman  
Legislator Wayne Horsley - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Jack Eddington  
Legislator Lynne Nowick  
Legislator John Kennedy

**Also in Attendance:**

Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Leader  
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Chief of Staff/PO Lindsay's Office  
Fran Siems - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Ben Zwirn - Assistant County Executive  
Brendan Chamberlain - County Executive Assistant  
James Dahroug - County Executive Assistant  
John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Diane Dono - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
Dr. Humayun Chaudhry - Nominee as Commissioner/Dept of Health Services  
Dr. David Graham - Chief Deputy Commissioner/Dept of Health Services  
Matthew Miner - Deputy Commissioner/Dept of Health Services  
Margaret Bermel - Director/Health Adm.Services/Dept of Health Services  
Bob Delagi - Acting Director/EMS Division-Dept of Health Services  
Dominick Ninivaggi - Superintendent of Vector Control/DPW  
Janet DeMarzo - Commissioner/Department of Social Services  
Linda O'Donohoe - Assistant to the Comm./Dept of Social Services  
Ed Hernandez - Deputy Commissioner/Department of Social Services  
Mark Clavin - Director/Child Protective Services/DSS  
Chris Jeffries - Deputy Bureau Chief/County Attorney's Office  
Kathy Ligouri - Tutor Time Day Care Center  
Debbie Alloncius - Legislative Director/AME  
Phyllis W. Smith - Retiree  
Phyllis-Kerri Gold - HAPPI-ACT Inc.  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

*(\*The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM\*)*

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Horsley.

***Salutation***

Good afternoon to all. Please have a seat. Welcome to the Health & Human Services Committee. It is about 93 degrees out there. We have one speaker from -- on the agenda, Dr. Phyllis Kerri-Gold. Dr. Phyllis Kerri-Gold, please come to the front over here.

Dr. Gold is the Executive Director of HAPPI-ACT, Helping Autistic Persons Participate Independently Through All Communications and Techniques, and she's going to give us a presentation for about ten minutes.

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

Thank you. I appreciate the privilege of being here to talk about HAPPI-ACT, and to honor your agenda, I'll try to be brief.

I have a long history with Autism, I have a son who is an adult who has Autism and I was one of the founders of the Autism Society of America which grew to be the largest organization for Autism in the world. I had no intent of starting another organization, but there was a very, very desperate need and that has to do with communication, because I found out that communication is key. We have found ways of helping people with Autism to talk who are not speaking verbally, or even who do speak verbally to be able to express themselves better, and it can be very, very simple, it can be with technology or a letter board like this. And by starting with supporting the hand of the person and then I've learned ways to withdraw support so that there's no question that they're communicating themselves.

Many of them have shown -- have been shown, if not most, to be extremely bright and some of these people were locked in silence almost all their lives when they are adults as well. And there is one boy who came from India who was thought to have an IQ of 29, which is what my -- approximately what my son's IQ was supposed to be, whose IQ being retested with other ways of communicating turned out to be 180. So there -- that's right, so there's so much intelligence there.

My friend's boy, who is totally -- my son is verbal, but at this point the letter board has helped him to become more verbal, but this boy is totally non-verbal, he's an adult. And one day he wrote to her, "My heart beats hard," and she thought he was writing poetry but what he was trying to tell her was that the medicine that he was taking, the psychotropic medication was affecting him badly and due to that, he was able to change it. So imagine not being able to express ourselves at all and then suddenly being able to.

And another important thing that we're working toward is that there is absolutely no regulation that says that anyone over 21 has to have speech therapy at all, and most of them are not having it. One speech therapist told me once they reach 21 they're dead, as far as this is concerned. And we have started to reactivate a speech program at Development Disabilities Institute and, you know, I'm hoping to help build that up and there's so much we want to do. So basically that's what we're doing, we're for communication.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Thank you very much, Dr. Kerri-Gold. What can we do in the County to facilitate what you are doing?

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

Well, maybe you could help me down the road to tell me how we could go about getting legislation -- this is down the road, though -- so that adult do have to receive help for speech,

because they're not getting anything. And right now we actually need seed money to operate our organization, that's where we are now.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Legislator Nowick?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Nice to see you again. I know that we --

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

Yes, thank you. I'm happy to see you, too.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

-- met in my office and we chatted for a while. You did tell me that you're actually right now working out of your house.

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

Yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Kind of being a lone-ranger on this type of thing. Did you tell me the story -- and maybe you could just tell the committee about the boy and what he said to you.

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

Yes, that was very typical. I went in to a group home and there was a boy there, he was an over 21 year old young -- man, I should say, and I had -- I was carrying a little alphabet board and I saw him looking at me, so I said, "Hello," and he kept looking and the staff member said, "This is Timmy, he doesn't talk." So I said, "Timmy, I think maybe you could talk with me this way. Would you like to try?", and he gave me his hand which was interesting. I support it like this because people with Autism have subtle movement differences, sometimes initially they need some support and I felt his hand go to the letters and he wrote, "Everyone thinks I'm stupid." And interestingly, the first thing they say when they can communicate is, "I'm smart. I'm intelligent." The first thing my son wrote to me was, "I can read," and I said how did you ever learn to read, he said, "I taught myself." We say to them, "What were you doing when you weren't talking," and they say, "We were listening." It's fascinating, it's really, really fascinating.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I just wanted everybody to hear that story. And as Legislator Mystal has just asked you, how can we help, and you were talking about seed money, and I guess down the road that's going to be very important to you.

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

Yes. We want to -- you know, little things like we put on an event every year, this will be our third, and it's a concert and it's an awareness. And I hope to have video at that point of my son and his communication with the letter board and verbally, I would like to get that. We don't even have a video recorder at this point but, you know, things like that to be able to demonstrate what we can do, what can be done.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Anybody else? Thank you very much, Dr. Kerri-Gold.

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

Thank you very much for allowing me to be here.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

And please stay in touch with us and keep talking to us --

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

-- and we'll see what we can do.

**DR. KERRI-GOLD:**

I appreciate the opportunity. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

You're welcome. Dr. Chaudhry, do you want to say anything to us? Anybody wish to -- I want to ask you one question, Dr. Chaudhry, concerning -- please come up. The question I wanted to ask is concerning the conference that my office is providing some funding for the health conference that is supposed to happen; how is this coming along?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

What you're referring to -- good afternoon, everyone, Mr. Chairman. You're referring to the conference we held last year which we hope to hold in October, a Minority Awareness Task Force Related Conference. We are trying to look at all funding streams and we certainly support any support that the Legislature can provide. The challenge is with some of the changes going on with budget-related issues, as you are aware in the news, but we do hope to hold a conference of some sort; we're looking at funding streams right now, but we do plan to move forward and hold some meeting of some sort.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Thank you very much. Anybody have any questions for Dr. Chaudhry? Okay, very short meeting today.

Dr. Williams, we have to ask you one question. Commissioner Williams, it's on the agenda and I know some of the Legislators have some questions concerning 1504, right? Yeah, 1504, the bill to move the Division of Emergency Medical Services to the Department of -- to FRES. You touched on it earlier in the Public Safety Committee, but the bill is in this committee so we would like for you to at least explain to us why the move and why is it necessary?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Good afternoon. This first request came about 18 months ago from the FRES Commission, it was the Fire, Rescue & Emergency Service Commission; that commission is made up of approximately about 30 organizations throughout the County, all the volunteer organizations. They brought up at their meeting, I attend their meeting, they felt that EMS and Fire work so close together, as FRES does. Right now we have 109 fire departments and 27 EMS agencies, 62 of those fire departments provide EMS service. We deal with the Fire Chiefs and the organizations on a daily basis, they felt that every time something came up they had two places to go.

I want to commend the people in EMS. I see nothing wrong with their organization, it isn't to correct anything that's wrong with the EMS at all, it's just to make a little streamline of our services. When we respond to a scene, generally you have Fire, Police and EMS on the scene, it just makes it a little easier. The volunteer forces out there, at least the ones I've spoken to, are in favor of this, they're looking to make that happen. They feel in one department it would actually make it easier for them to operate training, if they do have a problem they can come back to one department, not separate and go into two.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Mr. Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I will make it brief, Mr. Chair. Commissioner, in effectuating this merger, do you see that you're going to have the same complement of folks doing the jobs that they're doing now or do you anticipate that some of the positions are going to be collapsed?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Absolutely not, there's never been any discussion about changing any positions. EMS will still remain in Hauppauge, FRES will still remain in Yaphank. We will be going back and forth a little bit more often, but there's no anticipation, there's been no discussion at all of that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

My other question goes to the operations of the ambulance units, both the independents and the ones associated with the fire departments. The ambulance companies I believe operate under the medical license of whomever the physician is that's the EMS Director. Is that authority or autonomy still going to be there, does that fit with this consolidation or is that something anybody has talked about?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

We discussed that, as a matter of fact, we had a discussion as late as yesterday on that. That will still -- that procedure will still remain in place. The only thing that we're unsure about is will that Director be assigned to FRES, will the job come over to FRES or still remain in the Health Department with the oversight from that department. But as far as the services, what the Medical Director offers, the oversight of that doctor will still remain in place.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And the medical aspects of the service when it comes to policy or decision making will remain with that person or will they be with yourself?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

What will happen is we looked at Westchester County -- Westchester County did almost the same identical thing. What will happen is an MOU will be drawn up between myself and the Health Commissioner; the Health Commissioner will have the oversight of all health decisions, anything to do with medical as far as EMS Division, and FRES will just do the every day administrative operations. We will confer, we're part of the MOU, we have to meet quarterly. We both will have an awful lot to say about what goes on with the department, but as per the State, the Health Commissioner has to stay the overseer of the medical decisions.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you, Commissioner. Through the Chair, I can assume that Dr. Chaudhry is in support of this?

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Yes, he's nodding vehemently.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. All right, thank you, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

There's a question here with BRO as well, maybe John can just chime in and tell us where things are at with this?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

The only issue we have with this is if you move it out of the Health Department it threatens Article 6 funding, reimbursement for several areas. So the State DOH is going to have to approve the move before we go ahead with it so we don't lose revenue.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

What kind of revenue are you we talking about?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

A lot; EMS is heavily reimbursed.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

A lot is a term here; we talk about a lot, that's a budgeted 2-6 mill -- bill. What's a lot?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

Yeah. There are three different revenue sources for education and training, and I don't know the exact number but I think it's in the range of a half of million dollars.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

If I could -- excuse me. If I could just say something on that. One of the Directors, when we started talking about this with the County Executive, we were not going to lose one penny if it meant -- if we go through with this.

What this particular bill is in front of you right now is this authorizes us to continue the application phases. Everybody we've spoken to so far up at the New York State Department of Health has told us that they've looked at our Article 6 money, compared it to everything else, they're saying to us that -- the head of the EMS for New York State is saying you will not lose it. I know at a meeting I attended yesterday, the County Attorney was instructed to get a hold of the State Legal Department. This is only to look at -- if this will work, this bill that's in front of you now is to start with the application phase; if we discover along the way we're going to lose one dime of money, we will not do this.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Mr. Commissioner, just one other thing. I mean, obviously I'm interested, as are my colleagues, from a policy perspective, but you know that I have a particular project, the paperless PCR project that's now in the actual contract stage with EMS, yet it involves ambulance companies and there is some overlap in synergy, particularly working in concert with computer assisted dispatch with Commack. So this is a priority for yourself and you see no -- just reassure me that things are going to continue to go smooth.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Things will continue, I don't anticipate any change. And again, just to reiterate, this is the starting phase, I believe later on we have to come back, if we do go ahead with this, to make sure, but I can reassure that if one dime of funding is lost this project will not go forward.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might add, Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Yes, Ben. We have a waiver process in place?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

What we do have -- as you recall, we submitted this bill some months ago and we have asked for it to be tabled at our request because we were concerned about losing any funding. We are confident now we can move forward with this and we are asking the committee if they recommend this to the full Legislature, because this will start the application process, it will enter the process where we can get this going. And as the Commissioner has stated, if along the way we find that there will be a problem reimbursement from the State, then that will be the end of it and we'll stop right at that point. But we don't think -- because Westchester has done pretty much the same thing and has no problem getting their funding.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Mr. Chair, I just have to -- by the way, I have to compliment you, Commissioner, because Smithtown Fire Chiefs Council, as a matter of fact, adopted a motion in support of this measure at their last monthly meeting, so you have been doing the communication and dialogue with the departments. Again, my questions go to, you know, the devil is always in the details; are we going to be able to preserve this, you know, merger without having a loss. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Legislator Horsley?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Again, good afternoon. My questions are all centered around money; I saw that coming.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Microphone.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Commissioner, at some other point, though -- I got my answer, but at some other point I'd like to talk to you about the number of letters I've received from my fire -- my Fire Chiefs around town and outside concerning the central alarm monies and taxation through Verizon and that whole issue. Would you spend some time with me and explain it from your side because I'm getting a one sided-view and I wanted to make sure I understood it.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Absolutely, I can make an appointment and come to your office.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yeah, Elie's got the same thing.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Yeah, we have the same thing.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

I can --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

We can do it together, there's no sense --

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

-- make an appointment, come to your office; actually, I can bring the person with me that explains it to me.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

There you go.

**LEG. EDDINGTON:**

Put me on the list.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Three? Okay.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Okay. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah, just a quick question. The resolution is authorizing application of the New York State Department of Health for approval. My question is if that application is approved and along the way we find out what Legislator Kennedy was alluding to that there might be a problem, do we get another bite at the apple at the Legislature?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**  
(Shook head yes).

**LEG. NOWICK:**  
So we still say yea or nay.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**  
Yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**  
Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**  
Thank you very much.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**  
Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**  
And now my favorite Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**  
Hello.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**  
See, I don't even have to call her name, she knows who she is.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**  
There was no one else left, actually. Good afternoon. I didn't have a prepared presentation, I know there are some bills on the agenda if you had questions on them. I also know that the issue of the consolidation is something that we're working on, I can speak to the committee on it.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**  
Basically, because --

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**  
But I know you want to keep it short, so.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**  
Yeah. Because the bill for the consolidation is in Ways & Means and not in Health, I wanted you to give the committee, the Health Committee because it's going to affect how we conduct business as a committee, I wanted you to brief the committee in terms of what you were doing and why you were doing it.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**  
Okay. Can you bring me my blue folder? I had spoken at the last committee meeting, I had mentioned and Legislator Mystal had talked about the issue of transportation. We have recently -- over the last two years we have been looking for replacement sites as the lease for both our Edgewood site -- which is in Edgewood, I didn't realize it was a community, which is over by Deer Park Train Station -- and our Wyandanch Center are both expired, our South Shore expired in '06 and our Wyandanch expired in '07. So we started looking for new sites and we, during that process,

didn't find anything for the South Shore site and looked at the possibility of combining the Wyandanch and the South Shore Center to see if there was any benefits in that process.

And in looking at that and the size of the center that we would be able to create, we realized that there were some synergies that could come out of a consolidation. And as you know, Nassau County had gone to a no-wrong door where they really brought, because of the nice density of their County and their bus transportation, all of their human services, social health, mental health, vets, aging and so forth under one roof and had a central intake for it and we in Suffolk really, because of our geography, can't do that, but other counties in the State had really started looking at changing the welfare model to a resource model, so we looked at the possibility of doing that if we could bring our two centers together. And we went to the Space Committee with a request to consolidate those two centers and a site was -- a call letter was done, a site was identified. We looked at the issues of transportation, we looked at the catchment areas, the new -- the proposed site for the Wyandanch Center is 5.1 -- the proposed consolidated site is 5.1 miles from the existing Wyandanch Center and one mile from the existing Edgewood Center. We looked at the bus transportation for both the people going to the current south shore and for the people going to the Wyandanch center. The people that -- and we did an analysis; people that go from Huntington now -- oh, this is really sad. Can I have my glasses, too?

**MR. ORTIZ:**

If you would like, I'll read it for you.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

I have a great chart, it's in color, I just can't read it yet. Basically, the Huntington individuals -- the Wyandanch people -- basically right now, if you walked from the train station to -- it's upside down, really? Tell me when it's too long because I know you want a short meeting.

So we basically looked at the different bus routes. The individuals that go from Huntington to the Wyandanch Center, which is their current location, travel an hour and five minutes currently now. With the new trains -- with the new schedule they could travel up to an hour and seventeen minutes if they did just the bus. The Wyandanch individuals that go from the train station to the current Wyandanch Center will go five minutes, under the new Southwest they would go 42 minutes. The people from Amityville who currently go to the South Shore Center travel an hour and 21 minutes, they would be the winners, they would go down to an hour and 17 minutes. So the bus transportation has always been an issue for our clients, but we have done a survey and found out that a number of our clients use a variety of ways to get there, the bus isn't the only way they get there; in fact, we're not confident it is the majority of the way in which people travel. We did a recent survey and found out that over 50% of the people arriving at the Wyandanch Center do arrive by car.

So transportation is an issue, so we need -- we recognize that we need to make a value out of once you get to the center, let's get everything you can there so you don't have to go through that transportation maze on a regular basis. So we have been really looking at reconfiguring our services so that once you get there, there's a lot of resources for you there. We have talked to DOL about doing the processes there, we're going to have a child care person there to do the intake for the child care, I'm going to assign a child support person there to help individuals with child support. We've talked to the State about getting a VITA site there so that people can have earned income tax credit counseling. We've talked -- let me see what else we're looking at. I'm drawing a blank. We're going to put all our HEAP sites there so that you don't have to travel from one to another to get energy assistance, you can get all your energy assistance there.

So that's really our model, to try to get it to be more of a resource model so that as you travel you don't have to go to a secondary site. Because right now the Wyandanch people that become eligible for temporary assistance have to go to Hauppauge, Oser Avenue to get their child care and their Department of Labor resources. So while the center is right there for them in the first instance, they do have to travel in the second instance once they go on assistance. So that's the model that we're

looking at. We think that the capacity will really give us an opportunity to provide a host of services that we haven't been able to provide at one site before.

So that's our vision, that's our timeframe. We have a community meeting that we're going to do, I'm going to meet with some of the leaders in the Wyandanch community early next week and then we're going to have a full community meeting probably the following week.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

The meeting that you're going to have with the leaders in Wyandanch, what date is that slated for, what time?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Well, we were looking for like an informal leaders meeting before we went to the community and we were looking at doing that Wednesday at 10:30 -- I guess we have it planned for Wednesday at 10:30 at the Parish Outreach, and that's with the people that are on the Parish Outreach, members of your staff and the Supervisor's Office, the County Executive's Office to really figure out the issues as the Wyandanch community sees them and to plan for the full community briefing which would be the following week.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Just one last question. As you know, my main concern is the question of transportation whereas it could be a two to three to \$4 cab ride from the surrounding area to get to the Wyandanch Center. When you say that most people who get there get there by car, you have not identified if they get there by private car or taxicab.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

We actually did look at taxi versus car, hold on. I'm not as organized as I'd like to be, but I do believe that's broken down on my list, on my survey list. Just let me struggle a little bit more. Okay, in the survey period that we looked at, there were 263 clients, 169 of them arrived by car, 25 arrived by taxi, 22 arrived by bus and 47 either walked or biked.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

So we did look at the taxi versus --

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

My main concern in terms of the move, if it doesn't happen, it's a question of the people getting to the center. I'm going to pass it on to Jack; you have a question?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just an observation or a suggestion, I guess, with the Commissioner. The size, I guess, and the magnitude and the duration of the lease are probably going to be similar to what we might have experienced with Wireless, with 200 Wireless. So the sooner that you can get the lease out for the committee to go ahead and get a look at the better, since what we had with 200 Wireless was a relatively compact period of time in order to go through what was about a hundred page lease.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

The lease is before Ways & Means as we speak, it's been tabled so it is available.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Oh, it is, okay. So then the Legislators who have this in their area I guess have had a chance to review it, huh?

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

This is -- the reason why I asked the Commissioner to come to the Health & Human Services Committee is because we don't have -- the bill is in Ways & Means.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

And it's a lease, it's not a -- the bid that we have was that it's a policy change, the lease itself is a policy change. But the lease is in Ways & Means, that's why we are having the committee meeting.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Again, just --

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

It's in a very industrial area, Legislator Kennedy; there really aren't any residences close to it. It's actually in Legislator Barraga's Legislative District, but it's really at the tip of his district. It really is a strange little area where so many communities merge, it took us a while to figure out whose Legislative District because it's -- it's actually considered north Bay Shore, but when people hear Bay Shore they don't think of that area.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Location is always important, I agree. But also, similarly, the Hauppauge Industrial Park, which is an industrial area as well, did generate some comment in the lease period; notwithstanding the fact that it was businesses that were adjoining and proximate to the center, so for what it's worth to my colleagues.

The other thing is I just would like to share with you, I guess, my thanks regarding a matter that your office helped my office with, particularly in your APS Unit; they did an outstanding job. So thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

We are going to move into the public portion. The first speaker is Debra Alloncius; you've got three minutes.

**MS. ALLONCIUS:**

Good afternoon, Members of the Legislature and Chairman Mystal. My name is Debbie Alloncius, I'm AME's Legislative Director. I'm here to say today that Cheryl Felice and AME is standing in support of the County seeking to have DOH -- go through the application process for FRES. We are not supporting the move at this time. There are many -- too many questions that need to be answered and until we get something in writing on the funding we're not comfortable, but we understand that in order to go through the process -- we have been in touch with the County Exec's Office and in order to go through the process, the application must be filed.

I also am here to speak in support of 1687, accepting and appropriating the funding for Child Protective Services. We all know that Child Protective Services is such an -- an integral part of

keeping this County running at an even, calm pace. CPS is so overworked, there are never enough support staff there, but let's not lose site of the fact that we really need more caseworkers, the ratio to the amount of caseload that they have to handle. Thank you. Have a good day.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Thank you. We never turn down money, and this is a hundred percent funding, so we'll accept it.

**MS. ALLONCIUS:**

Yeah, that's a no-brainer that one, right?

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

We'll accept it. The next speaker is Kathy Liguori.

**MS. LIGUORI:**

Good afternoon.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Before you start, Kathy. I know we were supposed to talk before, but you came in late so I had to start the meeting.

**MS. LIGUORI:**

It's okay. I'm here to speak before you about Introductory Resolution 1293.

I've been speaking about this month after month after month and I just wanted to let you know that there are some other investigative findings that I have discovered. Under the New York State Block Grant, there is an administrative directive that refers to registration fees and security deposits; that administrative directive speaks specifically to non-contracted providers that if they charge private-pay parents registration fees and security deposits, the local departments must also. The only way that the local departments cannot adhere to paying security deposits and registration fees are if the child care providers sign a waiver.

Now, I bring this to your attention because I view the account management, accounts receivable, accounts payable to be very similar to managing a client or a provider's account with respect to an advance payment. I have some open dialogue going on right now with the Commissioner because the last thing that we want to do is delay our payments any further and to upset a department that is -- has been continuously under staffed and we want to be sure that we are providing the right assurances to the providers. So until we can truly have more information to make an informed decision with regard to this law, I request that it once again be tabled and I do want to put closure to this as soon as possible.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

It's my bill and I will gladly table the bill for another cycle until we get it right, and if it's not needed then I will withdraw it. If we can work things out, you know, I will do that -- because the bill basically is an impetus review. So I will ask to table it.

**MS. LIGUORI:**

I understand. And you know, we do have some other resolutions, as you know, that are going on that we want to be sure that we're asking the right things, and so many things have unfolded. The providers have been desperate, they have been injured and they want assurances that we don't go through this for a fourth decade, this is the third time and they don't want to go through this again, but we do want to ask for the right resources from all of you.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

You got it.

**MS. LIGUORI:**

Thank you.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Next speaker is Phyllis Smith; Phyllis Smith? Phyllis, going once, going twice, you're all gone. The next speaker Craig Blanchard.

**MR. BLANCHARD:**

Good afternoon, Members of the Legislature. My name is Craig Blanchard, I am an Intern at the Long Island Fair Housing Services. The Fair Housing Services is an agency, not-for-profit, set up and designed to prevent unlawful housing discrimination and to further fair and affordable housing for all.

I've been asked to appear here by our staff attorney, Wanda Cortez. She received notification of a proposed amendment to -- I believe it's Resolution 15 -- that would be 1512 regarding the strengthening of the Zoning and Building Code Enforcement. She has a -- I have with me here a proposed statement she would like to submit to the Legislature regarding her objection to this amendment, if I may distribute that to the members.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Mr. Blanchard, do you happen to know what her specific objections are?

**MR. BLANCHARD:**

She did outline briefly in her statement. I think she feels that the attempted code enforcement may lead to some issues regarding the use of the County resources, but more importantly we feel that the residents may suffer, you know, a right to privacy violation in the enforcement of the code. And additionally, there may be a disparate impact among certain residents, minority residents of certain communities.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

We intend to -- well, we have this bill and we intend to approve it and discharge it for a vote on Tuesday.

**MR. BLANCHARD:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Is it possible that she can come on Tuesday and speak on this?

**MR. BLANCHARD:**

I definitely will speak with her and if it's possible she will attend. I'm just --

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

With all the --

**MR. BLANCHARD:**

I'm sorry, go ahead.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Please, because we are going to discharge this bill to be put on the agenda for Tuesday, so if she would like to come and address the full Legislature which will come here -- which will be here on Tuesday, she's welcome to do that, but tell her we are going to vote on it on Tuesday.

**MR. BLANCHARD:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Okay? Thank you. Do I have anybody else who wishes to speak to the committee? Okay, hearing none, we are moving to the agenda; it's a beautiful thing, it's only a quarter of three.

**Tabled Resolutions**

***IR 1293-07 - Authorizing payments to Day Care Providers in advance of audit (Mystal).*** I will make a motion to table.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Abstentions? No? ***Motion is tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1408-07 - Adopting Local Law No. 2007, a Local Law to improve pool safety and protect against accidental drownings (Cooper).*** Motion to table. Seconded by Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion is tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1473-07 - Approving the appointment of Ingo J. Gloeckner to the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board-Group C (County Executive).*** Motion to approve.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

**MR. NOLAN:**

He has not come in, but I don't think that --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

He already appeared.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

We've already talked to him.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Did you talk to him?

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

He was here before. He's not here now, but we have talked to him before.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah, he's been here.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

He's been here.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

It's already approved. Ben, it's already approved, there you go.

***IR 1504-07 - Authorizing application to the New York State Department of Health for approval of the transfer of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Emergency Medical Services to the Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services (County Executive).***

Motion to approve by Legislator Eddington, seconded by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

***Motion carries (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***1512-07 - Adopting Local Law No. 2007, a Local Law to strengthen County Policy enhancing Zoning and Building Code Enforcement by Suffolk County Towns and Villages (County Executive).*** Motion to approve by Legislator Eddington, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I was just going to get Counsel to tell us quickly again what this is going to do.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Okay, before we call the vote, Counsel?

**MR. NOLAN:**

This Local Law makes a couple of changes to the law that was passed back at the end of 2005 which established a monetary incentive program for towns to change their housing codes.

First of all, that law required the towns and villages, after they found evidence that created a rebuttal presumption that there was a housing code violation, to go to the landlord or the owner and get a statement saying that they were actually in compliance with all the applicable codes; this law would eliminate that requirement and also eliminate the requirement that the towns and villages impose a fine on a landlord or owner if they failed to present such a statement or gave a false statement. It's to help the towns and villages implement the law and get the incentive.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So this whole process of this affirmation or this writing is now being eliminated.

**MR. NOLAN:**

It's being eliminated.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

That's interesting. Okay.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Okay, motion to approve. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

***Motion is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1516 has been withdrawn.***

***IR 1577-07 - Directing the Department of Health Services to conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a Division of Geriatrics (Romaine).*** Motion to table. Seconded by Legislator

Horsley.

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion is tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1622-07 - To strengthen County policy to comply with zoning and building code requirements in the Department of Social Services' Placements (Romaine).*** Motion to table, seconded by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion is tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1635-07 - Establishing guidelines for the use of Methoprene in Suffolk County (Schneiderman).*** This resolution has to be tabled because the EPA just came out saying that this resolution was a Type A and needs a -- a Type I and needs an EAF Form, Environmental Assessment Form. So we are going to table this until this -- we will discuss it further and then we'll get the Environmental Assessment Form from CEQ. So motion to table by myself, seconded by Legislator Eddington.

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion is tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***MR 50-2007 - Memorializing Resolution in support of funding certain approved Special Education Programs and Special Act Public School Districts (Senate Bill S.5672 and Assembly Bill A.8337) (Romaine).*** Motion to approve by Legislator Eddington, seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

#### **Introductory Resolutions**

***1643-07 - Accepting and appropriating additional 100% grant funds from the New York State Office of Family & Children Services to the Suffolk County Department of Social Services for the registration and inspection of child care providers (County Executive).*** Can I put this on the Consent Calendar.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Yes, motion to approve and put on the consent calendar. Seconded by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is carried. ***Approved and placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1656-07 - Accepting and appropriating 100% additional Federal grant funds passed through the New York State Department of Health to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for the Family Planning Program (County Executive).*** Same motion, same second, same vote. ***Approved and placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1687-07 - Accepting and appropriating 100% funding from the --*** 1687, right.

**MR. NOLAN:**

We've got to do 73 first.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Oh, 73.

***IR 1673-07 - Declaring September, 2007, as "Polio Awareness Month" in Suffolk County (Romaine).*** Can I put this on the Consent Calendar, too.

**MR. NOLAN:**

We generally don't.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Generally don't, okay.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Put it on the regular calendar.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Regular calendar. Motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Horsley.

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion carries (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1687-07 - Accepting and appropriating 100% funding from the New York State Office of Family & Children Services to the Suffolk County Department of Social Services for the registration and inspection of child care providers (County Executive).*** Motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Eddington, the Consent Calendar. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion is approved and placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***MR 53-2007 - Memorializing Resolution requesting United States Congress to enact the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act of 2007 (Senate Bill S.999)(Stern).*** Motion to approve. Seconded by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

Motion to adjourn by --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Oh, one more; Mr. Zwirn.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might, we're just going to be presenting one CN with 100% grant funding for Nassau Law Services at the General Meeting; I just wanted to let you know that that will be coming.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

We always take the money. Thank you.

Motion to adjourn.

**LEG. EDDINGTON:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN MYSTAL:**

Seconded by Legislator Eddington. Good-bye. Have a nice weekend, stay cool.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM\*)***