

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

A regular meeting of the Health & Human Services 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 September 11, 2008.

Members Present:

Legislator Kate Browning - Chairperson
Legislator Jack Eddington - Vice-Chair
Legislator Thomas Barraga
Legislator Wayne Horsley
Legislator John Kennedy
Legislator DuWayne Gregory

Also in Attendance:

Presiding Officer William Lindsay - District #8
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Josh Slaughter - Aide to Legislator Browning
Maxvel Rose - Aide to Legislator Gregory
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader Losquadro
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Leader Cooper
Marge Acevedo - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Gail Vizzini - Director/Budget Review Office
Craig Freas - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Diane Dono - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn - Deputy County Executive
April Ortiz - County Executive Assistant
Janet DeMarzo - Commissioner/Department of Social Services
Roland Hampson - Commissioner's Office/Department of Social Services
Linda O'Donohoe - Assistant to the Commissioner/Dept of Social Services
Dr. Humayun Chaudhry - Commissioner/Department of Health Services
Matt Miner - Deputy Commissioner/Department of Health Services
Margaret Bermel - Director of Health Administ/Dept of Health Services
Lydia Sabasto - Executive Vice-President/AME
Debra Alloncius - Legislative Director/AME
Dot Kerrigan - John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility
Christopher Destio - John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility
Mary Finnin - RN/Representing Suffolk County Health Centers
Ginny Salerno - Executive Director/Long Island 2-Day Breast Cancer Walk
Chris Frey - Long Island 2-Day Breast Cancer Walk
Rick Brand - Newsday
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken & Transcribed By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 2:06 P.M. *)*

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good afternoon. I think we're ready to start with the Health & Human Services Committee. We'll do the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Kennedy.

Salutation

And if we could all stay standing. I'm sure you all know it's September 11th and the 7th anniversary, so keep in mind the families who have lost their loved ones and also for our soldiers overseas.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you. Okay, we shall begin with -- we have a presentation, Ginny Salerno from the Long Island 2-Day Breast Cancer Walk. Hi, Ginny. It's nice to see you.

MS. SALERNO:

Hi, Kate. Nice to see you, too.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You have a presentation for us?

MS. SALERNO:

Yes, I do. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Ginny Salerno and I'm the Executive -- Founder and Executive Director of the Long Island 2-Day Breast Cancer Walk. And I have Chris Frey with me, he's a committee member, visual and electronics media wizard and my Guy Friday. I want to thank you all for inviting us here today to make this presentation.

Since the only member of the committee who has personally participated in our event, that's Legislator Browning, she's actually come down on Saturday morning at six o'clock to the DARE area and handed out breakfast. I have provided a short DVD that I hope will convey the sense and spirit of the LI 2 Day.

Video Presentation

I just want to mention that, of course, this was our DVD that we had prepared for the 2008 walk and that's why the dates are for 2008. We have prepared some packets for you, for the Health Committee, and one of the things you'll see in that packet is a letter outlining our accomplishments and an appeal to each of you to help us to continue to assist your family, neighbors, friends and your constituents here on Long Island. Please refer to the brief outline of all the participants by town so you can see the breadth and depth of the organization. We have participants from the -- you know, east -- western Nassau County out to the East End.

First and foremost, I would like to personally thank each of you and the Legislature for approving resolutions over the past five years which allowed LI-2Day to have the Suffolk County parks as a venue for the event. Nearly \$2 million was raised by our organization and our walkers and a hundred percent put back into the Long Island community because of you.

Please refer to the first sheet in your packet, these are the organizations that we have supported, in many cases for the last five years, and this is, again, due to the Legislature's foresight in 2004 to approve a venue for our event. This year 15 organizations each received \$31,500. We have already given out \$60,000 in scholarships and we have \$15,000 set aside for 2009.

The second sheet, with your support, our funds support 18 Long Island grassroots outreach organizations and Cold Spring Harbor Labs. At Cold Spring Harbor, the only place our money can go

is for breast cancer research, it can't be used for other research there. This sheet illustrates how the organizations we fund spend the money that we give them, and you can see that it's really right out there in the community.

The third sheet is about me; this is the least important piece of information that you have in your packet. Suffice it to say, I am a physical educator by trade, a gym teacher. So all of what we have done or do is a learning experience for me. No big time executives or salaries at LI-2-Day.

The last sheet is a list of our 2008 sponsors. As Long Islanders yourselves, please use these services -- please use their services and let them know how much you appreciate their support of the LI-2-Day. Carrabba's, for example, serves anywhere from 400 to 600 dinners on Saturday night at Cathedral Pines without any cost to us. UPS, in addition to a \$5,000 grant that they give us towards our journal, provide five package cars that deliver gear to -- from William Floyd High School to Cathedral Pines and the deliver the gear to individual tents for the walkers. They also are on the route for two days, setting up and breaking down rest stops. The Carpenter Union, Local 7, they sponsored volunteer T-shirts and they also are there with us from Friday through Sunday night, building, taking down, moving, transporting, anything we ask them to do they're there helping us.

So these are all great things that have taken place here on Long Island in the last five years, but we are at a crossroads. We've raised a ton of money, this year over \$520,000, but we have no money for the organization or the event. So my reason for being here today, besides thanking you, is to appeal to you on several letters -- levels. I would ask you to please let other political and government leaders know that LI-2-Day exists. Any introductions that you can facilitate can only help us all to do better. The same goes for Long Island businesses and the unions. Our sponsor base is relatively small given all the businesses here on Long Island. You can assist the Suffolk County community by making introductions for us.

Legislator Kennedy did just that in the last two weeks. Because of his intervention, I was able to speak with the decision makers at several organizations. Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. On the left side of your packet, you will see there's a flier there for an event that we're having October 5th. Anyone that needs haircuts, wants to donate a pony-tail or get a mammogram, we're trying to cover all the basics. So it was with his help that we were able to cosponsor that.

I also plan to write the entire the Legislature for Omnibus funding. Any suggestions of how to make our appeal stand out would be greatly appreciated. We have no grant writers here at LI-2-Day.

I notice fliers and posters for "Making Strides" here in the Legislative Building; this has become very popular, "Making Strides". I only ask that you ask how much money that they raise goes to salary and advertising; how much of the money raised on Long Island stays on Long Island. These national organizations are not grassroots in the true sense of the word. I only hope that you will display our posters and fliers in the months to come. Chris here can facilitate you getting the fliers and the posters, his information is on the left side of the packet. Remember, what's raised here stays here, 100% of it.

Finally -- oh, I see I missed something here about our beneficiaries. I said that we raised over two million?

MR. FREY:
Uh-huh.

MS. SALERNO:
Yeah, okay. Finally, please pass the resolution next week so that LI-2-Day can use the parks again in 2009. Thanks again for the privilege of speaking with you today. The business card enclosed has all my personal contact information, so please feel free to call me. Is there anybody that has any questions?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Kennedy, I believe.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. And I just wanted to commend Ginny for the work that she's done and -- you know, she brought up a couple of good points, I think. We are asked to go ahead and support many, many, many different types of charitable works and good institutions, but I think there's something to be said in what she was talking about as far as putting money towards groups that actually do direct care and assistance to women, and men I guess, who are battling breast cancer.

And Ginny, I was going to ask you, certainly without violating any kind of confidentiality or anything, give us an idea of what some of the groups that you fund wind up doing to help people. How does that manifest itself?

MS. SALERNO:

Okay. Well, actually probably in about two weeks you can go to our website and see what each individual group has done with the money that we gave them in the last five years. Some of the more compelling reasons for helping some of the groups that we help are just, for example, Brentwood/Bay Shore Breast Cancer Coalition. They really have -- you know, we feel like we're shorthand with our -- what we can do. They have no help at all, so there's no way for them to request funds by way of grant-writing from any organization. So -- and basically we fund that organization.

The very first year, believe it or not, I mean, the first year I couldn't get anybody to be a beneficiary because they thought I was out of my mind. So finally, I got a couple of groups and we were able to give those six groups \$40,000 in the first year. And as a way to bring in other groups so that everybody would be covered, we gave those other groups like a thousand dollars a piece. The day after I gave Brentwood a thousand dollars I got a phone call and she said, "I just want to thank you because I just called the woman to let her know that we can pay for her medication for two months with the money that you gave us." And that's not just one story. Most of the groups that we assist, the money is really -- I mean, another one was a survivor, she had like six kids, no husband and the roof was leaking, and in conjunction with the Carpenters and North Shore Neighbors Breast Cancer Coalition, they set the whole thing up, carpenters did all the repairs for free, LI-2-Day paid for all of the supplies to fix her roof. This is like the nuts and bolts stuff that, you know, by your supporting us are able to facilitate. What else?

MR. FREY:

The oil because she was ineligible for HEAP.

MS. SALERNO:

Oh, okay. One of the people, she was ineligible to get fuel oil because she hadn't -- and she had no money get it, she had been out of work because she was, you know, fighting her disease and we were able to fill her tank. So, I mean, the things that we can do, it really brings a tear to your eye. I mean, there was a woman, I got a phone call after we handed out the money, this was in August and I got a call from Cancer Services and the woman needed a sonogram -- and sometimes a mammography will be paid for but not the sonogram -- and they didn't have money and she didn't have insurance. And that's basically what Cancer Services does, they use our fund for people that are really completely down and out and that they can help, and the woman was in tears because we were able to give her a couple of hundred dollars to have that done. So, you know, that's what keeps us all going, knowing that all the hours and the time and what we give up almost daily with our families is really helping people right here in our community. Does that answer your question?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Absolutely, positively. I'm a firm believer that it's always important to understand how what we deal with in a large aggregate sense goes to help somebody in their day-to-day life.

The other thing, I guess, that I'll ask, what's brand new. You mentioned that we're sponsoring the

Mobile Mammography Van up in Nesconset in the beginning of October. And we're working through that process right now as far as doing the enrolling and the screening and some of the other things, which I probably will speak to the Health Health Department about later. But what's been your experience when you've hosted the van in the past? Do we get a good turnout, do we get -- I'll even turn to Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You're talking about the County one, right?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I can tell you, I do it every year.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And when we have -- the mammogram van comes to my district, we can fill it up very fast.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And so we -- you know, there's certain places not as quick, but I can tell you Shirley/Mastic, they -- we fill it up and we wind up having to possibly send them somewhere else to go do it, and thank God the Health Center now has the mammograms there, too. But we actually, today, we have a mammogram van in my district.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I just realized that. And another thing, you know, looking through the book, and I've been there, and when you see the people -- and I have to say, Cameron Alden is there every year, every Saturday, every Sunday he's there also and a very good supporter. But when you look in here, I don't know that everybody realizes, you see the dark pink T-shirts and you see the light pink T-shirts and those dark pink T-shirts are survivors. So it's amazing when you see the sea of dark pink.

MS. SALERNO:

Well, actually all of -- any of those from closing ceremonies in the pink, those are all survivors.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yep. And I have to say, it's a very emotional day. I would recommend -- you know, these are not -- while it's being held in my district and the event is in my district, there are so many people there and everybody constituents are there. So I'll invite you to come to my district for the Long Island 2-Day next year, I would love to see you's all there.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It sounds good.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Legislator Horsley.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Good afternoon.

MS. SALERNO:

Good afternoon.

LEG. HORSLEY:

I see my sister's on your Planning Committee, I was glad to see that.

MS. SALERNO:

Oh, who is that?

LEG. HORSLEY:

Keely Harris?

MS. SALERNO:

Oh, Keely is great, yep.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Yeah. My -- I come from a big family.

MS. SALERNO:

She didn't mention you, though. If she had I would have called you already.

LEG. HORSLEY:

What can I tell you?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Money, money.

LEG. HORSLEY:

She's got the money, I need it. I talk often with Babylon Breast Cancer and Debbie Facile and the gang. She a while back was very concerned about the lack of doctors that would work with Medicare or Medicaid recipients, accepting out in Stony Brook where it was too far for certain people to get to and didn't have transportation issues. How is the doctor situation as far as Suffolk County concerning breast cancer issues?

MS. SALERNO:

I don't know. I can only tell what I know secondhand and that is that I went to a meeting at the Cancer Services East End at the beginning of the year and that was the topic that day and it seems like there aren't enough doctors to go around. You know, the Medicaid Medicare reimbursement is something like for a needle biopsy like \$93 or something. So, you know, not that I'm an expert, I'm only telling you what they told me.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Yeah.

MS. SALERNO:

And it seems that there just aren't enough physicians out there that can do the types of things that are needed.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Yeah. And it seemed to me not only was it Medicaid and Medicare, but anyone that doesn't have health insurance, that people weren't getting any support at all except maybe Stony Brook. And I was just wondering if -- that was a couple of years ago, whether that's still a pervasive problem.

MS. SALERNO:

I think it's still a problem. I mean, even with the mammography van, there are a lot of rules and regulations. So, you know, when my -- when Legislator Kennedy and I discussed the mammography van, our idea was, "Oh, we'll provide no cost mammographies to the people that don't have insurance and that really need these services," because if you have insurance like I do, I called BAB, I made an appointment, it's you know, it's going to cost me \$15 maybe?

LEG. HORSLEY:

Right.

MS. SALERNO:

But -- so the people that don't have insurance are the ones that I would think would be the people that would go to the mobile mammography and they're excluded by the rules and regulations that exist. They have to have a primary care doctor, they have to have films from their last mammography, they have to have insurance. So that kind of -- did you find that, too, Kate? I mean, do you have that as well?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, we did. And actually, certain types of insurance are not accepted also.

MS. SALERNO:

So we're really not helping. You know, we're trying to do something really good but we're not really able to do it under the current system.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Right. Yeah, that's kind of the message that I was getting and that was even several years ago and I can't imagine it getting better. Where do we go? I mean, how do we work on this issue?

MS. SALERNO:

I don't know. You know, we -- Brookhaven Hospital is one of our beneficiary organizations, we give them money for their women's center. And I've spoken to Mr. {Okers} and he tells me, "They turn nobody down there at all," you know, anybody that goes -- it may even be a law that they have to do that because they're a community hospital. You know, Peconic Medical Center and Good Sam, through the Cancer Services, we support them. So, you know, I'm one person, I can't change all the rules.

LEG. HORSLEY:

No, I understand.

MS. SALERNO:

If it was my rules, my rules would be everybody gets what they need, especially when it comes to health care.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And I think that's something that, I know our Commissioner is here, that we should discuss with him how we can get through that, that hurdle.

But Ginny, again, you do a fantastic job and every year it gets better. So, congratulations.

MS. SALERNO:

Thank you. And thank you for your loyal support, and you show your biggest support by always

being there and I appreciate that very, very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you.

MS. SALERNO:

Thank you all again.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And with that we will go to the public portion and our first speaker, Chris Destio?

MR. DESTIO:

Good afternoon, everybody. Good afternoon to all Honorable Legislators here. First I would like to send my respect and my condolences to all the September 11th victims and their families.

I would like to put on public record that the John J Foley Skilled Nursing Facility was used as an emergency evacuation center, the day-care area was closed down. And thank God that the storm wasn't so bad. We heard nothing of this mentioned on the TV or the news about our facility, and I'm sure that the Health Committee here could figure out probably why that John J. Foley is never mentioned that it is an evacuation center.

The Hurricane of 1938 was considered a Category III; Category III is winds up to 111 to 130 miles per hour. It totally destroyed our east coast. Can you just imagine if we ever got hit with the same hurricane in the same day and age? As an example, Hurricane Ike started as a Category IV which is 155 miles per hour. I brought in an article that came out from Suffolk Life; if it's possible for the Legislators to get this, I appreciate it. The article is from "Now They Close Down Suffolk Life" dated 8/7, 8/07, and it's only about a year old. It's quoted as saying that John J. Foley is one of the four shelters that were available in the case of black-outs, wild fires, hurricanes and, God forbid, another terrorist attack. When we had wild fires back in the 90's, our fifth floor was utilized for the evacuees of the Westhampton Nursing Home, two days later they went back. Once again, you don't hear about this in the papers or anybody else, from anybody else.

We are one of the few nursing homes around that have piped-in oxygen. All the nursing facilities have portable oxygen tanks like my part-time job where I work in Smithtown. So during a catastrophic event like a hurricane, like a Category IV, oxygen cannot be delivered to these older nursing homes due to flooding and/or road closures. We have enough oxygen to last at least two months, if need be. We have a generator that can run our facility at full capacity, unlike older nursing homes that can run half or even just quarter capacity. We are a very vital resource to our community and during an emergency John J. Foley has proven in the past that it can provide a much needed service.

Like I've always said up here many, many times, the public's tax dollars are put to good use here and not wasted as people tend to make you believe. I thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Chris. Up next is Debbie Alloncius.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

Good afternoon, Members of the Health & Safety Committee, Chairman Browning. I thank you for the opportunity to stand here before you on behalf of Cheryl Felice and the 8,000 members of AME. I would like to read into the record a letter sent by the Assembly -- certain members of the Assembly of the State of New York addressed to County Exec Steve Levy dated August 30th, 2008.

"Dear County Executive Levy, we the undersigned are writing regarding the J.J. Foley Nursing Center to request that you refrain from selling or closing the facility. After evaluating your consultant's

report and understanding that several others have been completed, all going toward the deficit of the JJF Center, we realize that the report should have been assessed how to make the facility run more efficiently and should have made recommendations to change the way the facility has been mismanaged."

"In addition, recommendations that have been made by the consultants have been ignored and have never been implemented. JJ Foley has treated patients for a vast array of diverse and complicated diagnosis which most nursing homes do not admit or treat. Traumatic brain injury patients are agitated, depressed and behaviorally challenged and are difficult to manage. Many are young men and women. Patients are treated for psychological and psychiatric illnesses, substance abuse, Alzheimer's behavioral and personality disorders and issues. APS referrals, severer physical and mental handicaps, dementia, multiple Sclerosis, AIDS and many other diagnoses, all of which need specialized and compassionate care. Many Suffolk County residents cannot find beds in nursing homes that are not far away from their loved ones."

"Rather than ignore the short-comings or the management of the facility, we would suggest that the large amount of uncollected monies that are due to the facility be aggressively sought after. Medicaid, Social Security, veterans benefits and pensions are ignored. The Suffolk County Attorneys are aware of this but have failed to pursue the collection of monies due to Suffolk County. It is our understanding that per diem nurses are hired from an outside agency at a costly salary rather than plan placing our own Suffolk County nursing staff in the facility. A change in this policy would save enormous amounts of money by reducing the payroll of an outside private agency. In addition, there are pharmaceutical savings that can be utilized if the County really wants to solve the issues and problems to help the facility run in a more cost effective and efficient manner rather than walk away from making it operate properly."

"A recommendation of hiring a new administration with integrity, experience and management capabilities would be a step in the right direction to maintain the facility and its workers. That administrator should be watching receivables, managing beds to make certain that he or she is working with other facilities and marketing the JJF Nursing Home to utilize the beds in the best and most efficient manner possible."

As representatives of New York State, we are keenly aware of our aging constituent population. Nursing homes have been closed throughout the State, yet our residents are getting older in larger numbers. Rather than closing down nursing homes, we should be preparing for our future by preserving places that we can put the many baby-boomers that will come of age in the next decade for placement facilities such as the one that we own and operate.

As elected officials, let's work together to solve this problem rather than abandon the facility. We believe that Suffolk County residents will benefit from keeping John J. Foley Nursing Center open and thriving. We implore you to be more assertive by maintaining the facility with an appropriate and competent management team. Sincerely, Members of the Assembly; Ginny Fields, Mark Alessi, James Contie, Patricia Eddington, Steven Englebright, Andrew Raia, Phil Ramos, Robert K. Sweeney, Fred Thiele, Jr." I have a copy I will hand in.

And I wish to address two other issues also at this time?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
Sure.

MS. ALLONCIUS:
IR 1771, Directing the Department of Public Works to issue the RFP regarding the Public Health Nursing Task report; two-and-a-half years, guys, it's long overdue. We do hope you push for it and get it out of committee. I'm hoping it's not going to be tabled.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I do believe --

MS. ALLONCIUS:

We owe these Public Health Nurses a debt of gratitude and hope to alleviate some of the problems there. I also assume that IR 1793 will sale today, purchasing the equipment of the new mammography unit for the health -- Brentwood Health Center?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yes.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

Especially after Ginny's little pep talk; let's get it going.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Debbie.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

Thank you, everybody.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And last is Dorothy Kerrigan.

MS. KERRIGAN:

Thank you, everyone. Today on this solemn day in American History, I'm proud to be here representing the most vulnerable of Americans here in Suffolk County.

My name is Dot Kerrigan and I work at the County Nursing Home, John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility. The employees of John J. Foley take their work seriously and our work is the lives of the County Nursing Home's residents and their well-being. For months due to the unannounced attack on their home by the current County Executive, there has been a cloud over our heads. Thankfully, due to tremendous community support and much needed and greatly appreciated support of you, our Honorable Legislators, there is optimism brewing at the facility.

We have a new Director who has made himself available to the residents of the home. The administration seems to be going in a much different direction. I'm very optimistic; whatever, it's better than it had been because we're kind of like moving along with a look to the future and the residents are so happy about it.

Because the John J. Foley -- because of the John J. Foley Advocate Group, of which I'm proud to be a member, was supported and encouraged by the group, you right here in front of us, we felt empowered to seek the help of our elected officials in Albany, and I'm happy to have with me -- I'm repeating what Debbie said, because I have a copy of that letter which we're very happy to have, signed by all of but two of our State Assembly persons from the Long Island Delegation. During one of our meetings with the Honorable Robert K. Sweeney, he asked if the \$5 million grant authorized by the State Assembly earmarked for John J. Foley in 2007 was used and, if so, how. We have not been able to find out about that yet, but we're kind of looking into it because it seems like it could be -- it would be interesting to find out what was being done with that money. And I would like to give -- oh, I'm going to giving a copy, but Debbie has already given you a copy of this. I prepared this last night and I didn't go over everything with Debbie; I guess I should have called her.

I would like to give you all a copy -- I'm sorry, I'm just going over -- and to work -- okay, we -- the letter requests that the County Executive refrain from closing or selling the County for facility and to work as he should have been doing to keep it serving the community as it's meant to do in the way -- also, to go into -- I just want to -- that's my statement about that, but I also want to just bring up something else if I have time.

I was reading the minutes of the Health and Human Services Committee, August 14th, of which I was camping at that time and I wasn't there, so I was reading it and there was interesting part that I found I should just -- I just wanted to bring it up because I think it's inaccurate and it's a conversation with Presiding Officer Lindsay; not that anybody here is inaccurate or anybody who's talking, but there's some inaccuracies. Mr. Zwirn was talking about the therapists who retired in the physical therapy department and was talking about placing the consultant there because they needed to have licensed personnel, but Joe Clemente who has been working there for many years is actually -- has a Doctorate in Physical Therapy, he's certainly qualified to do that. And he was interested in looking for a posted position there, but that had never happened as far as we know. And also, if there -- the person that used to be in charge of the physical therapy department, Kathy Wallack, she plays the organ at my church every Sunday, so I could get any information from her that you might be interested first-hand this Sunday, if you have any questions about that. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, dot. Actually, that is, I think, the question that we are going to be asking about. I don't know, is Ben here; no?

MS. LOMORIELLO:

He's out in the hall.

MR. ORTIZ:

He is.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, okay. Maybe we should go ahead and ask that question, if he's around. Actually, Commissioner Chaudhry, if you have a minute, or two, or maybe ten.

*(*Presiding Officer Lindsay entered the meeting at 2:42 P.M. *)*

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Hi. You know, I just received some information this morning about the -- there was a Catherine Wallack that used to work at John J. Foley, she was a Supervising Physical Therapist. At one of our last meetings, I believe Mr. Zwirn -- and I know he's not here, but he can defend himself when he gets here -- that this person left, went to a contract agency and was working at the Foley Facility. And as we have heard, she isn't, she's working, I believe, at the Nesconset Nursing Home. So, you know, who's telling the truth; what exactly is -- and who's working there now in her portion?

And again, Dot Kerrigan mentioned about Joseph Clemente who is a Doctor of Physical Therapy, he is interested in the position. You know, he's currently, I believe, a Grade 21 which he averages about \$39 an hour; the person who left is around \$42 an hour, I think. So I don't understand why are we looking for somebody when we currently have somebody already there?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Matt Miner, Deputy Commissioner. I can speak to some of those issues. Ms. Wallack is not presently working either as an employee or as a contracted vendor at the facility. She did retire as part of the Early Incentive Retirement Package that the County had offered. In the interim, we had hired a vendor, a contracted vendor to provide oversight, supervision of the facility. At the same time, that person is evaluating the overall program.

I think everyone knows we're doing an evaluation of all the various functions at John J. Foley. We have an RFP that should be out on the street today for management services, but part of what we're

trying to do is get a better assessment of many of the areas that were problematic and physical therapy was one that HMM, our consultant had identified as not billing correctly and some other deficiencies. So we wanted to take a chance, or take an opportunity to implement something long-term that will better the facility.

We do have a SCIN signed by the County Exec for a Physical Therapy Supervisor; once we have the assessment of the therapy department we do intend to hire a full-time individual, but we need that assessment first so that we make sure that the mistakes that we were making in the past we don't continue to make.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Can you let the committee know who the person is at this time?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

It's Peter DeGear.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And what is he currently being paid?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

I don't have those -- I don't have that contract with me. I can get you that information.

MR. PEARSALL:

I have that information, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

If I might, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, Presiding Officer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

We understand it's \$100 an hour we're paying the consultant.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

At least, yeah.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

I don't have the contract, I don't want to quote that number without looking at the contract.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, but the question is -- I mean, it just seems we're spending more and more money on consultants --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

No, we're trying to fix --

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- with a predefined answer.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

No, we're trying to fix it. And there was a lot of billing issues that we weren't properly billing for

services that we were providing. And what we're trying to do is enhance the revenue at the facility by making sure that we're properly billing and servicing the residents. We weren't doing that under the former employee who was in charge of that unit, all right. So before we promote from within, we want to make sure that we correct the system, then hire; whether it's that employee or somebody new; we have the SCIN and we will hire, but we want to fix the problems out there.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. See, initially we were told there was nobody in the department with the credentials to take over as the head of Physical Therapy, and then we find out there is.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

I will have to check on that employee's credentials, I don't know if he has that or not.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, supposedly he has a Doctorate --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Again, I --

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- that we paid for.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Again, the Therapy Department was problematic, it was identified by both HMM and by the interim administrators as --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, but you've got an accounting problem. A Physical Therapist Doctor --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

No, Physical Therapists do the billing and they were not properly assessing --

P.O. LINDSAY:

It sounds like an accounting problem to me.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

They were not doing the proper assessments to correct the billing. We want to put the procedures in place so that what work we're doing out there we get paid for.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's wonderful that we've finally taken that approach. You know, you referred to HMM, our consultant, that's the RF -- was there an RFP to select HMM?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Yes, sir.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But it wasn't -- it wasn't vetted through the Legislature without our knowledge and it wasn't done by resolution.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

There were multiple awards on the RFP. Only when you have a single vendor do you go before the Leg under the current policy. We issue hundreds of RFP's in our department.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you know -- someone told me we've already spent like \$170,000 and it's ongoing with HMM?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

That's about the correct number. But I can tell you with the Medicaid Part B that we weren't billing, we've already collected about 500,000 from their recommendations, so they've more than paid for themselves in just that one area.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Well, it amazes me how we're paying current County employees, we're paying them to get a higher education, we have a qualified person right now who works at the J John J. Foley and can't --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

We will be happy to provide the report from the consultant of all the deficiencies that were going on and you can judge for yourself as to whether or not we should have made that promotion at that time or not.

P.O. LINDSAY:

The HMM Report?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

The HMM Report as well as the consultant --

P.O. LINDSAY:

We have that.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

No, the consultant that is currently doing the therapy and identified a number of areas that we were deficient in, and that's going to bring more revenue into this facility.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How was that consultant selected?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

It was a recommendation of Stony Brook, actually.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So there wasn't an RFP on that one.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

We were able to get a waiver on that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Who gives you the waiver?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

There's a Waiver Committee.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Who's on the Waiver Committee?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It's not us.

MR. ZWIRN:

Madam Chairman, I serve on the Waiver Committee with --

Laughter From Audience

Well, I don't know what's so funny. Also Deputy County Executive Jeff Szabo and Fred Pollert; we sit on the Waiver Committee.

P.O. LINDSAY:

In all due respect, Ben, there seems to be a problem with the amount of consultants we have, how they're being selected and how that this Legislature doesn't have any knowledge of this selection; I think it's disturbing.

What about -- and maybe the Commissioner knows this. It was mentioned earlier about a \$5 million grant, nobody knows where the money went; what is that all about?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

I can also speak on that. I don't believe the number was five million, it was about \$2.6 million, that's the Community Enhancement Grant that this Legislature approved, I want to stay about two months ago, authorized it into our operating budget. We probably will be coming back to put some of that into the Capital Account. I've had several meetings with DPW, Lou Calderone and Tedd Godek, the County Architect, in implementing what they need to implement and in terms of what the County Health Department can control. There were some -- like purchases of mattresses have already been done, we're starting with the security cameras and the fencing and those other items, so some that Public Works needs to get involved in and some that we can do including an EMR that we're doing in-house. But it was two-and-a-half million dollars or 2.6 million.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So it's for capital improvements.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

What's that?

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's for capital improvements.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Capital improvements; correct, sir.

LEG. HORSLEY:

On that particular issue -- Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead.

LEG. HORSLEY:

You said it went into the operating budget; what did you mean when -- you said that those dollars went into the operating budget; who does the Operating Budget -- where do those monies disperse to once it goes into the operating budget?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Pursuant to the resolution that was adopted by the Legislature, the \$2.6 million went into the 2008 Operating Budget for the Health Department, specifically for Foley. Because some of those projects are capital in nature and will not be done in this operating year, I've been working with the Budget

Office and will be coming to you once we have the final estimates from DPW to put some of that into capital because it will be a one year, two year project and it will roll over into the next operating year and possibly beyond.

LEG. HORSLEY:

So that money went to Foley is what you're saying then.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

The money is for Foley, absolutely.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Okay. When you just said went into the operating budget, I saw it going into the ether

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

No, it's money that we haven't gotten yet. It's a grant application to the Dormitory Authority; we have to do the work, we pay the claims and then we get reimbursed from the Dormitory Authority.

LEG. HORSLEY:

You know, I've never known Bob Sweeney to be inaccurate when he makes a statement. Where does this five million number come from?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

I believe the \$5 million number is not just for Foley, but there are other community enhancement grants for the Parks Department, I believe the VA clinic and some other --

LEG. HORSLEY:

So there was a --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Some other items. But specifically for Foley, it was about 2.5 to \$2.6 million.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And, you know, another issue is we've been looking at opening up a VA clinic out east and we're looking to close down the John J. Foley Facility. Have we ever thought about maybe putting that VA Clinic at the John J. Foley Facility rather than spend more money?

MR. ZWIRN:

I think the original thought was that it was going to be on the east end, so we were looking for a place from Riverhead east.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I'm kind of east, according some people.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, it depends on where you are. If you live out in my neck of the woods, it's not so far east.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Up-Island.

MR. ZWIRN:

West of the Shinnecock Canal is Up-Island.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I still think, you know, we're talking about our budgets in hard economic times, we really should be looking at things like that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Madam Chair, if I might on that.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure, Legislator.

P.O. LINDSAY:

The Veterans Clinic came about as an idea probably six or seven years ago and I was the head of the Veterans Committee at the time and Legislator Caracciolo was the East End Legislator. And the problem was is that the buses that go from the VA Hospital in Northport could not make it to the East End and back in one day. So the veterans that needed a day trip for services really had a problem with it. So it was suggested to be in the Riverhead area at the mouth of the two forks but, you know, I think your idea about Yaphank could certainly work.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It's right off the LIE.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I mean, you could you make certainly a trip from Yaphank to either one of the ends of the two forks and back in a day without a problem.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Uh-huh.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think that makes a lot of sense. I mean, we're spending -- how much are we spending on the VA Clinic in the new --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

That's being handled through Public Works, it's not the Health Department.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, I know that. But I'm pretty sure it's well over a million dollars.

MR. ZWIRN:

It was a million dollars; a \$500,000 grant we got from the State and the County was going to match it, for the construction.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

There you go.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the VA is going to man it, right?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think that's a good idea.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Any other questions?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Kennedy, if I can.

LEG. KENNEDY:

While the Commissioner is here and the Deputy Commissioner, I would just like to pick up some of the dialogue we had before with the presentation regarding the mobile mammography van.

First of all, I'm pleased to see that we have that ability to go ahead and bring a portable facility into a community. My own home community -- you know, there's the allusion that folks are -- you know, there's rivers of money running through our neighborhoods, which is not always the case. We have under-insured and uninsured women are definitely in need. But I was somewhat troubled when I saw from the South Patchogue clinic some of the requirements associated with establishing eligibility for a woman to actually receive a mammogram. And as Madam Chair had mentioned, I think there is a requirement that, in fact, an individual have a primary care physician, that films from prior mammograms be made available and that there be a script written, I believe, for the mammography itself. To me -- again, as a layman -- it seems kind of counter-intuitive. If a woman doesn't have insurance to begin with, how is she going to have a doctor, a treating doctor, a script and prior films?

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

If -- thank you, Mr. Kennedy. If I could respond, that's the where the health centers can come in, because the community health centers, one of the reasons why they serve such an important patient care safety network in Suffolk County is our eleven health centers provide care to 80,000 residents and some 300,000 patient visits. And whether you're under-insured or uninsured or have some other status, our health centers are there to provide the primary care and the preventive medicine care.

As in Internist myself, it's important to have a primary care physician supervise the process in getting this necessary screening, and it's not just breast cancer results or cervical cancer and colorectal cancer. And so having a primary care provider being a part of that is, I think, a sine qua non and that's where the health centers come in.

Since you mentioned the mobile van, as was indicated, it does visit the Coram, Maxine Postal, Central Islip, Shirley and Patchogue Centers on a weekly basis, the schedule is available on the County Internet and, you know, several hundred, if not thousands, over the years have taken advantage of that. So that is a standard of care that before any screening service is sought by anybody, that there be a primary care provider, that there be a prescription so that there is follow through, if you will. It's not unusual when in the absence of that to have a test done and the person not be available for follow-up or that the appropriate follow-up not be there.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Doctor, I understand what you're saying and I think you would have made an excellent attorney if you did not become a physician.

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

My father is an attorney and I think he would be happy to hear that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

There you go. You know the saying "Giving somebody ice in the winter". If I have a constituent who has limited mobility in the first instance, who doesn't have the \$5 a gallon in gas to drive to Patchogue or to Coram or to Brentwood or someplace else to establish with a physician but is living in my community and I'm attempting to make this service available for them, in essence what you're saying to me is, "Try something else because it's just not going to work." So me driving that woman to a facility to have her evaluated, to get the script, to go back to the van up where she lives; is that

it?

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

I would say that for any resident in Suffolk County, it's imperative that they have access to primary care; we heard that this morning as well, having access to all kinds of care, not just primary care. The County does what it can to provide that care. The fact that our health centers are owned by us does allow us some management control in terms of bus routes, for instance -- I'm just saying, for those who are able to take bus routes, that's available. But you're right, geography is an issue in a County as large as 900 square miles.

But I would say that while a mammography is absolutely important, my aunt died of Metastatic Breast Cancer leaving four children, so I know the value of screening for cancer generally. Having said that, there's additional screenings that are also needed, as I indicated, and also primary care, making sure the person is screened for diabetes, screened for hypertension, screened for all kinds of other conditions. So we will do what we can to provide comprehensive care and that's really what's needed.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. I'm going -- I'll go one more time and then I'm going to yield, Doctor, and I'm going to try to do it like a three year old. If I have a woman on the phone who wants to come to have a mammogram and she doesn't have a primary care physician or she doesn't have script or she doesn't have films, what should I tell her; no tickey/no shirty?

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

She can go -- well, most of our vans are parked right in front of the health centers.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, I'm talking about the one that's going to be in Nesconset on October 5th at Hairspray. What do I tell the women who I can speak with who may want to get a mammogram for that day and who don't have script or a primary care physician; what do I tell them?

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

Our mammography van around the year, three hundred -- you know, 52 weeks a year is available throughout the County. If she cannot get a primary care provider's prescription to get it, we can do that at our health care centers, whether she has money or not, to give her that initial setup. But if she misses that appointment, there are other opportunities, but she must have a primary care physician who supervises that because someone has to follow-up. And there are other issues beyond breast cancer that needs to be provided for and that's where our health centers can come in.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm going to yield and we'll have another conversation about this.

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

I'm happy to.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Because clearly we are having some difference, I guess, in opinion here. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Legislator Barraga has a question.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Commissioner, rather than call you back up, just a quick question. We've got a bill coming up, 1793, that calls for the expenditures by way of serial bonds of \$242,000 for the purchase of equipment at the various health centers, and someone had mentioned a new mammography unit. Is there an existing mammography unit at the Brentwood Health Facility and what is the condition of

that unit; has it completely failed, is it still operating? If a lady goes there, a woman goes there, can she get a mammography with the existing unit? What's the situation with that?

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

Several of our health centers have the older technology, it's Analogue Mammography. The Digital Mammography is the cutting-edge technology which can give you more precise information. So the Brentwood site does have an analogue mammography, but it's not necessarily in the state that it should be.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

It also is failing, we're having great difficulty getting spare parts at this point. It's really out used -- it's out-lived its useful life and parts are just not that available, so we do need to upgrade.

LEG. BARRAGA:

So it's not available, at times?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

There are many times that the system is down and getting parts is becoming increasingly difficult. Vendors are just not stocking those parts because of the age of the machine. So we do need to upgrade and just keep up with current technology.

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

On the positive side, if I may, you know, the Coram Center has a digital mammography unit that's up and running, Riverhead should come on board within the month, this would be now the third digital mammography unit through our community health centers. On the positive side, the prices for the technology have gone down a bit. For instance, the Coram site was put in at the cost of 352,000 and the Riverhead was also 300 plus; this particular cost now is down about 242, whatever the figure is that's quoted. But it is a vital service to the residents.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. And last but not least, out of curiosity, we're reading a lot about the West Nile Virus, and if you'd like to maybe kind of give us an update on anything new.

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

Sure. Thank you, Madam Chair. It's been a rough season this year, more in Nassau than in Suffolk, but even in Suffolk County. This year, for instance, we've had 59 dead birds attributed to West Nile Virus, we've had three suspected human cases, no deaths. But those three suspected cases have not yet been confirmed, but the dead birds and the number of mosquito samples that have tested positive for West Nile Virus this year have been rather high. And so we have been working closely with the New York State Department of Health to do what we can.

If you will recall, this was unheard of in the North Hemisphere until 1999 when it first showed up in New York State. It is now in 48 States of the United States in the Continental U.S., it's in Canada, it's in Mexico. Last year Governor Schwarzenegger in California had to declare a State of Public Health Emergency in three Counties in California because they had too many deaths. So, you know, mosquito surveillance, mosquito control is an important function of the Health Department and we have been working closely with our Department of Public Works and our Vector Control, our Arthropod Disease Borne Laboratory to do what we can to survey and to be ahead in terms of keeping it under control. But the season is not over yet.

This is a good opportunity, since you asked me the question, to remind the public to do what they can in dumping any kind of water that they see in their backyards. It hasn't been so much that it's been a warm summer, it's been that we've had rainfall interspersed between the hot weather

and that is prime for mosquito growth. And so I've been doing what I can to speak to the media, whether it's newspapers, radio or television, to remind people to look in their own backyards. We can't do this alone, this is a partnership and so it is a public education effort.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You know, one of the things that I get a lot of complaints in my district is the mosquito problem. And we have Smith Point Beach and there's the Fire Island National Seashore, you cannot spray. Are we trying to do some cooperation with them to do some spraying, too?

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

In those areas that are State-controlled, we work with the appropriate State agency depending upon what the specific threat is. This past year, for instance, in the Town of Riverhead we had a situation where three mosquito samples came back positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis which is far more deadly than West Nile Virus. In fact, we've only had two cases, two human cases ever in New York State, both were fatalities, one in 1970 and one in 1983. New York State Department of Health, recognizing that, declared a public health threat in Suffolk County enabling us to work with DEC, Department of Environmental Conservation, and other agencies to do the necessary spraying in those areas. So the answer to your question, when it comes to State-controlled lands, whether it's DEC controlled lands or Department of Health controlled lands, we work with the appropriate jurisdiction to do what's necessary depending upon the threat.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, thank you. Any other questions, anyone? No? Good, then we'll move ahead with the agenda.

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

Thank you.

Tabled Resolutions

IR 1270-08 - Requiring the Department of Social Services to notify landlords when the tenant is denied further benefits (Romaine). Again, I'll make a motion to table. Do I have a second?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Motion is tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).***

Introductory Resolutions

IR 1771-08 - Directing the Department of Public Works to issue Public Health Nursing Task Force RFP (Presiding Officer Lindsay). I believe the sponsor did request that we table it one cycle.

MR. ZWIRN:

Just one cycle. After conversations with her, we should be able to get this all taken care of by the next meeting.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Yeah, I would also like to try and get up to speed on this. I did receive some information on it and -- so at this time we'll table it for that one cycle. I will make a motion to table. Second --

LEG. GREGORY:

I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MS. VIZZINI:

Madam Chairman?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sorry. Oh, you know, I forgot you were here. You're so quiet.

MS. VIZZINI:

If I may --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yes, Gail.

MS. VIZZINI:

-- I just wanted to point out to the committee that I did give you a memorandum on this subject; two things, just to give you some perspective when it does come before you. I just want to correct the second bullet, it references a date, April 25th of 2007, the correct date is 2006, consistent with the timeline. The purpose of the memo is just to highlight the basis of the legislation, how back the situation has extended, some concerns that Mr. Zwirn has conveyed to me in regards to the County Executive's representation and my correspondence with Commissioner Anderson and my attempts to resolve it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. I believe -- did we do that?

MR. NOLAN:

We voted, right?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We voted, okay.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

IR 1793-08 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of equipment for Health Centers (CP 4055) (County Executive). Motion?

LEG. BARRAGA:

I want to speak on this.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure, go ahead.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You want to make a motion first?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve, Legislator Eddington. Second, Legislator Gregory, and on the motion.

LEG. BARRAGA:

On the motion, just correct me if I'm wrong. Based on your testimony, you do have Digital Mammography Units in Riverhead and Coram?

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

That's right.

LEG. BARRAGA:

But not in Brentwood; in Brentwood you have an analogue unit.

COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:

Also correct.

LEG. BARRAGA:

If a woman goes in there today, can she get a mammography done with that analogue unit?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

If it's working.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes. Because, you know, this is bonded indebtedness, what we're talking about here. I just want to make sure I'm clear before I vote.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

She can assuming the machine is up and operational. Again, we are having difficulty maintaining the operation of that machine because of its age and the inability to get parts.

LEG. BARRAGA:

But there are other --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Today it's operational.

LEG. BARRAGA:

-- two other County facilities that she could go to, in Coram or Riverhead, to get the mammography done.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Yes. It is --

LEG. BARRAGA:

All right, that's all.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

It is further away, but yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I understand that, but all those units are available.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Madam Chair, on the motion?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. The equipment going in in Brentwood, what is the arrangement that we have with the Brentwood Clinic? Do we own that building or do we lease that building?

MR. FREAS:

The Brentwood clinic?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

The Brentwood Clinic is leased.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Where are we in that lease and what is the nature of the installation of this equipment?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

It can be relocated if we move out of that facility. I think the committee knows that we do have plans for the Regional Center to improve both Brentwood and CI, RFP will be forthcoming. So if we are successful in getting this approved, if and when we move out of that facility into the new facility, new Brentwood Facility, it would be relocated.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. I -- some of this I know, some I do not know. I have heard references to a combined center.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Well, we applied for a HEEL Grant, for HEEL 6 for \$5 million to help with that; we haven't heard yet but we hope to -- both the Brentwood and CI facilities are old and antiquated, we are trying to serve the community as best as we can and we do need a more efficient operation with more exam rooms and we're seeking to do that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Let me see if I can go back, though, then so I can understand. How much longer do we have on the current lease with Brentwood?.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

I believe -- I believe it runs to either 2013 or 2014, I'm not a hundred percent sure.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Can I defer to BRO; is that anything that you folks have a line on?

MS. VIZZINI:

I'm sure we can get that information for you. As a member of the Space Committee, I can tell you that the Space Committee is currently seeking a 55,000 square foot facility to consolidate Brentwood, Central Islip and what was Bay Shore. So we're looking for space which is approximately the size of Brentwood currently for the population that's served for those geographic

areas.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, let me go back to this proposal. And absolutely, positively I'm in favor of digital mammography equipment, as I understand it. And again, I'll this for the nine hundred and ninety-ninth time, I'm a dirt lawyer, I don't know anything about medicine. But Dr. Chaudhry did indicate to us, I believe, that digital mammography has a better ability to go ahead and ascertain whether or not there may be cancerous tissue, so I'm in favor of that. But if we were likely to move to a new facility in 12 months or 18 months, what, in fact, is involved in installing this equipment? Is it fixed installation; what's the cost of installation, do we have to make modifications and what might we look at as we relocate it?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Any construction of a new facility will be at least two years, it will be three years before we get in, two-and-a-half years before we get in realistically. We need a machine now. It can be relocated, it's not an issue to relocate the machine. I don't have the exact cost for relocation, but in the meantime we have a machine that has out-used its useful life, we can't get parts. And if we're going to serve the public and provide a much needed service, we need to have this machine.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I do want to add, I know Legislator Eddington has a comment or question, but Shirley has a digital mammography, too, also, right?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

Not yet, it's next.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay. Legislator Eddington?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Well, I find it interesting that I think in this committee today we've gone full circle; we started off with LI 2-Day to Breast Cancer, marching and talking about it. And -- oh, that was the last committee where we had --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Analogues and digitals.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

-- Cablevision talking about digital and analogue TV and we're all going out to buy new digital TV's for entertainment and I can't believe we're even hesitating to upgrade the unit that you're talking about.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MINER:

The Health Department is not.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

No, and I commend you for it and I appreciate you bringing it to us. And we now here that it could be two years; I think that would be atrocious. And if it saves one woman's life, I'm a hundred percent supporting, so thank you for coming to us today.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Jack. Okay, so we had a motion and a second /All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, one opposition. The motion carries.

So with that I believe no more business, so motion to adjourn. We are adjourned.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M. *)*

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically