

**HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

A regular meeting of the Health 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 Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 2 p.m.

**Members Present:**

***Legislator William Spencer - Chairman***

*Legislator Bridget Fleming - Vice-Chair*

Legislator Robert Calarco

Legislator Monica Martinez

Legislator Tom Cilmi

Legislator Robert Trotta

Legislator Leslie Kennedy

**Also In Attendance:**

*Legislator Kara Hahn - Legislative District #5*

George Nolan - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature

Sarah Simpson - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature

Amy Ellis - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Craig Freas - Budget Review Office

Michael Pitcher - Aide to the Presiding Officer

Elizabeth Alexander - Aide to Legislator Spencer

Liz Sutton - Aide to Legislator Fleming

Chris DeLuca - Aide to Legislator Cilmi

Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy

Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Trotta

Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn

Walter Dawydiak - Director of Environmental Quality/SC Health Dept.

Jen Culp - Assistant to the Commissioner/Department of Health Services

Katie Horst - Director/Intergovernmental Relations-CE's Office

Mohammad Awais - County Executive's Office

John Marafino - County Executive's Office

All Other Interested Parties

**Taken by:**

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

*(\*The meeting was called to order at 3:48 p.m. \*)*

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Okay. Thank you, everyone. It's now ten 'til four, so the -- we apologize that the Health Committee is starting a little later, but I'm going to ask if we can begin now. If we could stand for the salute to the flag, to be led by Legislator Martinez.

*(\*Salutation\*)*

Can we please remain standing for a moment of silence for the men and women who are serving this country both at home and abroad.

*(\*Moment of Silence\*)*

So, once again, good afternoon. And this is actually the last committee before we enter the Memorial Day holiday weekend. And I just felt that it was appropriate that, you know, I wanted to extend just a salute to all of those men and women who have served this country and have given their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice. And many of us this weekend will go to parades and wreath laying ceremonies and -- but it is really -- when we look at the right that we have to be here, the right that we have in our democracy, in our republic to elect us to do the job, and that really represents the liberty which they fought and died and gave their lives for. So I just wanted to just briefly extend a special tribute and thought to those men and women and to their families, that we humbly and sincerely thank them for their service. And we wish you all a happy Memorial Day.

So with that, are there any cards or anyone for the public comment?

**MS. ELLIS:**

No, I do not have anything.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

All right. Is there anyone that wishes to be heard? We're going to open the public comment section at this time. Is there anyone that wishes to be heard? Seeing none, we'll close the public comment.

We had a presentation scheduled. Recently, there's been some concerns with school districts discovering lead in their drinking fountains, and it particularly has affected two school districts in my Legislative District, but we know it's countywide. And, in fact, there has been some concerns from the public, especially when we hear of the Flint, Michigan tragedy, and to see that we're dealing with those issues at home. And in response to that, we had scheduled to have a presentation from the Department of Health, and we had dealt with a very important topic this morning in Public Safety that led to a five-hour Public Safety meeting, and so we deferred the presentation for this week. But it is something that the Health Committee Chair, and I'm really going to assume my colleagues are concerned about, that our school districts are going to make sure that they're doing their due diligence.

One of the concerns is that some of our schools were constructed over 20 years ago, and some of them have been constructed before the Clean Water Protection Act, which really mandated the types of pipes that would be used in these -- in the schools. The issue seems to be related to drinking fountains that perhaps aren't being used a lot, where there's the water that settles, they're old, lead pipes or pipes that have been soldered with lead, that they may be leaching into the water. And,

really, I'm going to try to work to see if we can establish support and best practices.

I did want to report some correspondence with our Suffolk County Water Authority Chair there, who is working with the Department of Health. I want to thank our Commissioner, that we've offered support and expertise. And to that end, we are going to be holding a workshop or an informational session for our School District Superintendents and Board Members that will bring in engineers and experts from the Water Authority, with our experts from the Department of Health, and where we will be able to provide information to assist our school districts.

We also, in the Medical Society, are going to reach out to physicians. And everyone should be aware that blood testing for children to look for lead is covered, one of the federally covered things with the Affordable Care Act. And we're going to encourage our physicians to make sure that they're up to date on just really the symptoms and signs of lead poisoning. And we're going to do everything we can to address the public's concern proactively. So we thank you for that. So I think these are very important issues. I could have had a presentation. Tom Cilmi's rushing me.

**LEG. CILMI:**

We were just thinking that.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

But two minutes. All right?

**LEG. CILMI:**

I was about to ask if I could ask the panel questions.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

We'll have a presentation, we'll offer to come up. All right. So in any case, that addresses that. All right. I'm sorry, Tom.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

So --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Monica.

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

How did I get dragged into that.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

My colleagues are ready to start their weekend. So, in any case, I have no other presentations, and we're going to move on to the agenda.

### **TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

Tabled Resolution *I.R. 1000*, and that's a *Local Law to increase the awareness of dry cleaning chemical use (Hahn)*. Legislator Hahn, what's your pleasure?

**LEG. HAHN:**

I'm not on the committee, but --

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Oh.

(\*Laughter\*)

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I'll make a motion.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

All right. Would you like to see it approved?

**LEG. HAHN:**

I'd like to see it approved.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

I'll make a motion to approve, then.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Is there a second? So --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

And we have motion to table by Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

That's me.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

(Raised hand).

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

And second by Legislator Trotta. So, on the motion, we are joined by members of the Department of Health that may be able to answer any questions that we have. I see Walter is here, Jen. Anyone? No? Are there any questions or any discussion on the motion? Any questions? Walter, would you come up, please? Thank you.

You know, I am so sorry, but I'm going to do something a little unorthodox. I did have an appointment, and we're going to get into a little bit of a discussion on this issue. And I am just going to just pass over this for just one moment, and I'm going to ask for a motion to take ***I.R. 1467*** out of order, and that is to ***appoint Jane Dye to the Wellness Program for Suffolk County employees (Lindsay)***. May I have a second to take that motion out of order, please?

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Second by Fleming. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0-0)***

We have that motion before us. Jane, would you please come up to the podium? And thank you for being here. And I wanted to get you out as quickly as possible.

**MS. DYE:**

Thank you, I really appreciate that.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

I know that you have other obligations today and I appreciate your patience. So, Jane, thank you for your willingness to serve. We have your credentials before us. If you would like to briefly introduce yourself, tell us kind of where you're from and just briefly your thought about wellness.

**MS. DYE:**

Certainly. My name is Jane Dye. I grew up on Long Island, born and raised in Oyster Bay. Moved to Huntington with my husband 33 years ago to raise our three sons. I have been a Professional Nurse since I graduated Syracuse University in 1979. So I worked for the University of Virginia Medical Center, as well as at Mount Sinai in different positions in health and wellness. Always wanted to -- excuse me -- to transition to preventive health care, so I ended up eventually getting my certification as a Holistic Health Coach. I also have certifications in Transformational Health Coaching, which has to do with neurolinguistic programming, really about -- and in Body Style Coaching. It allows people to make diet and lifestyle changes to improve their health and wellness.

I've been committed to health and wellness throughout my life. I have family members who have had a lot of challenging medical issues. That's part of the reason that I am leaving today here, there's a medical issue in my family. I seem to be the go-to person. We were tabulating how many times I've been to the emergency room with some immediate or extended member of the family, and I think after this last visit on Tuesday, it's 15. So I'm very comfortable in both that arena, as well as in the health and wellness.

The biggest issue about health and wellness today, which doctors know very well, is compliance. How do you get people to do what they need to do in order to change their health? So that's what health coaching is all about. That's what I'd really like to contribute as a nurse and as a health coach to the committee, is ways that we could help people to easily, sustainably, and, believe it or not, in fun ways improve their health and wellness in a way that's not deprivational, or doesn't involve denial, which is -- which is the way that we usually try things on for a little while. You know, we do well for a while, and then we go back to our old health behaviors. So how do we get people unstuck and out of a rut around health and wellness, so that they really can reduce their risk factors, and really have a healthier, longer life?

I had the -- also the opportunity of working for a company called Health Management Resources, and we did offer nationwide programs. I was their Director of the Medical and Nursing Training, working with physicians and large group medical practices, University of Kentucky, and a variety of other hospital settings to bring these types of programs to people both on an individual and a group basis. I do maintain my own company, it's called Precedo, Inc. Precedo means to excel in Latin. And I work with people individually and in group programs to provide them with the support and accountability, so they can make empowered decisions about their health.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Thank you very much. I mean, it's definitely an important role, that we have a very large workforce of dedicated employees in Suffolk County, we're self-insured. It's not only an issue of, number one, caring for our families, but it also protects our constituents, our taxpayers, increases productivity, extends life. And it also, which is less important, but still also saves us money in the long run. That's the vision bill that Bill had, and I join him in that vision, and he has identified you as a key part to making that happen. So I support your appointment, and I thank you. Are there any other questions? Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

I just missed, where do you live now?

**MS. DYE:**

I live in Huntington.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

You work for Cardiac--

**MS. DYE:**

One of the businesses I work for is Cardiac Scan Imaging Services and Wellness Solutions. We provide screening for First Responders, as well as for other companies that are interested in having us come in and do first level screening, to allow them to determine whether or not there is a heart problem. They can be referred on to the Northwell system of health. So I am involved not only in the scanning, but in doing wellness counseling with Cardiac Scan as well.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Any other questions? We have a motion and a second?

**MS. ELLIS:**

No, we do not.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

All right. I'll make a motion to approve. May I have a second?

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Second by Legislator Fleming. All those in favor? Any in opposition? Any abstentions? The motion carries unanimously. **(Vote: *Approved 7-0-0-0-0*)**

Thank you very much. This will go before the full Legislature on Wednesday, but you don't have to appear again. I anticipate that there won't be any issues. Thank you very much for your time.

**MS. DYE:**

Thank you very much.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

All right. Sorry, Walter. Thank you for being there. So we do have a motion and a second to approve the dry cleaning bill, and we also have a motion to table and a second. The tabling motion would take precedence. Is there any discussion on the motion? Seeing none, motion to table takes precedence. And those -- all those in favor of tabling?

**LEG. CILMI:**

(Raised hand).

**LEG. TROTTA:**

(Raised hand).

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**  
All those in opposition?

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**  
(Raised hand).

**LEG. FLEMING:**  
(Raised hand).

**LEG. CALARCO:**  
(Raised hand).

**LEG. KENNEDY:**  
(Raised hand).

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**  
(Raised hand). The tabling motion fails. *(Vote: Table Failed 2-5-0-0-0/Opposed: Legislators Martinez, Fleming, Calarco, Kennedy and Spencer)*

Moving on to the approval motion. All those in favor of approval, please raise your hand.

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**  
(Raised hand).

**LEG. FLEMING:**  
(Raised hand).

**LEG. CALARCO:**  
(Raised hand).

**LEG. KENNEDY:**  
(Raised hand).

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**  
(Raised hand). All those in opposition?

**LEG. CILMI:**  
(Raised hand).

**LEG. TROTTA:**  
(Raised hand).

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**  
The motion to approve passes. *(Vote: Approved 5-2-0-0-0/Opposed: Legislators Cilmi and Trotta)*

Walter, thank you for your time, appreciate it.

**LEG. FLEMING:**  
Way to answer.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**  
And your input.

(\*Laughter\*)

All right. ***I.R. 1151 - A Charter Law to elicit public input to require Legislative approval for fee changes (Cilmi).***

**LEG. CILMI:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

All right. Motion to approve by Legislator Cilmi, seconded by Legislator Kennedy.

**D.P.O. CALARCO:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I'll second the motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Motion to table by Legislator Calarco, seconded by Legislator Fleming. So any discussion on the motion? Tabling motion goes first. All those in favor of tabling?

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

(Raised hand).

**LEG. FLEMING:**

(Raised hand).

**LEG. CALARCO:**

(Raised hand).

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

(Raised hand). All those in opposition?

**LEG. TROTTA:**

(Raised hand).

**LEG. CILMI:**

(Raised hand).

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

(Raised hand).

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

All right. Tabling motion carries. ***(Vote: Tabled 4-3-0-0-0/Opposed: Legislators Trotta, Cilmi and Kennedy)***

***I.R. 1207(A Local Law prohibiting the distribution of plastic carryout bags used in retail sales (Spencer), a Local Law to prohibit distribution of plastic bags. Motion to table for a Public Hearing, seconded by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion is tabled. (Vote: Tabled for Public Hearing 7-0-0-0-0).***

***I.R. 1430 (Declaring April 17th as "Animal Cruelty Prevention Day" in Suffolk County***

**(Browning)**, Declaring April 17th as Cruelty to Animals Prevention Day. I'll make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Martinez. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0-0)**

**I.R. 1438 - Accepting and appropriating 50% State/50% Federal pass-through grant funds from the New York State Office of Mental Health in the amount of \$993,552 for the Vital Access Provider/Safety Net Program administered by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Community Mental Hygiene Services and to execute grant related agreements (Co. Exec.).** Motion to approve by Legislator Kennedy, and seconded by Legislator Martinez. I see -- oh, it's 50 and 50, but it's 100% supported.

**MR. NOLAN:**

A hundred percent State and Federal.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

So that is to place on the Consent Calendar. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is carried. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0-0/Placed on Consent Calendar)**

**I.R. 1442 - Declaring the month of October as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month" in Suffolk County (Muratore).** Motion to approve, second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed? Motion is approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0-0)**

**I.R. 1456 - Accepting and appropriating 100% State grant funds from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the amount of \$1,250,000 for Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) for pesticides in Nassau and Suffolk Counties administered by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Environmental Quality and to execute grant related agreements (Co. Exec.).** Motion by Legislator Kennedy to place on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Fleming.

On the motion. Briefly, can -- Walter, can you address this one? There was one question I was instructed to ask, and I promised the Legislator that I would, and, actually, I have the same question myself. It says that it's water quality monitoring for pesticides in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Is there a joint grant that's going to Nassau, or are we administering the entire grant? And will you be doing testing in Nassau County.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Dr. Spencer, thank you. Walter Dawydiak, Director of Environmental Quality in the Health Department.

Under this agreement, we're analyzing 360 samples for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. My understanding is that the only grant from the State is to Suffolk County, not Nassau. Out of those 350, we're analyzing 90 samples from Nassau County water suppliers. They're taking their water samples, delivering them to our lab. We're running the tests, reporting them to Nassau and DEC, and we get the benefit of the grant for that. All of the well drilling and sample collection work and the rest of the sampling happens in Suffolk County. And the grant is 1.25 million, solely to Suffolk County.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Thank you. Legislator Fleming has a question.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Yes, thank you. If you could just describe where -- what protocols have we followed to determine, you know, locations for monitoring? What are you looking for? Just give us an explanation. I

don't see it in the reso.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Certainly. This is a repeat program of several State pesticide grants. What this is, is under the State Pesticide Reporting Law, DEC is required to assess the presence, location, impact and the management of these pesticides, many of which are not specifically regulated. So what we do is prepare a five-year work plan for the -- I'm sorry, a five-year contract for this funding, and every year under that contract a specific work plan gets approved.

This particular year, we're looking at a variety of different agricultural land uses, vineyards, golf courses, row crops, greenhouses, sod farms and nurseries, as well as a number of other locations. We're drilling some wells and taking a lot of samples from preexisting wells. Many of these agricultural uses are, fortunately, decreasing in pesticide impacts due to best management practices. We want to make sure that it keeps going that way and do any fine tuning we need to. So, basically, we discuss with the DEC what their priorities are, where our data gaps are in terms of the aquifer and the uses, and we come up with locations under this annual work plan. Nassau, I believe, is just giving us their public water supply samples from different locations as a screening method for what people in Nassau might be drinking.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

So in the agricultural -- so this is only with regard to agricultural applications?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

This particular year of the work plan is primarily focused on targeting potential agricultural impacts. And there's also a residential component of it to see what residential turf is generating compared to agriculture.

I also want to point out that we sample for these same pesticides in all of our drinking water samples. We do about 300 parameters. Over 100 of them are pesticides and their degradates. And in all of our public and private well samples, we do that as a service to the community. This particular work plan is investigative work above and beyond that to determine sources, impacts and better management.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

And how do you determine where you dig the monitoring wells?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

That's all done by determining our existing monitoring well network, where are data gaps are in terms of the agricultural land uses, and where we need to be over a five-year period. So we discussed with the State over five years building a data set for each of these agricultural uses that I noted, that it's robust enough with enough farms and enough samples to definitively be able to say it's moving in the right direction or it needs more work.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

So it's just for public water, it's not private wells?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

These particular samples are groundwater monitoring wells, so we're doing an investigation of the aquifer. With respect to public water and private wells, we are running the very, very same samples. The problem is, is that the public and private well network is not sited in a way to be representative of our aquifer. It's what people are drinking, which is very important, but it's not telling us what's happening in all areas of the aquifer, and this program fills in those gaps.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

So you said in Nassau you're looking at public wells, I think, but in Suffolk, you'll be also monitoring private wells?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Correct. Nassau negotiates with the State what samples they want to give us. We get 90 bottles of water. We don't particularly care on our end where they come from. I believe that they're from their community water supply systems, by and large.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Is there a name for this program, Walter?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

I call it the Pesticide Grant. It's under the Pesticide Reporting Law.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Thank you.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

I'm sorry, I'm looking at the title. Water Quality Monitoring for Pesticides in Nassau and Suffolk Counties is the grant identifier with the State DEC.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Thank you. Thank you very much, Walter. So you didn't waste your time after all. We didn't talk about dry cleaning, but we --

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Thank you, appreciate it. I was ready, though.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Any in opposition? Any abstentions? Motion carries. ***(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0-0/Placed on Consent Calendar)***

One last brief thing before we're going. I do see Jen. The Commissioner is not here. But to the Health Department, we've seen in the paper, I saw that Congressman Israel was with the County Executive. We're looking at the mosquitoes. The projection federally is that there's not enough money. But I see that Nassau County Department of Health has a Zika Action Plan. And I just wanted to hear, is there a Zika Action Plan in Suffolk County? Are we discussing it in the Health Department or the Administration? I would like to know that. It does appear to be that there's a big unknown, now that temperatures are hot, and there is a concern that we're going to start to see first transmissions of Zika within the United States.

So, Jen, if you could just tell us briefly anything you know about Zika and then that will be it. We are looking to know that we have a plan and that it's specifically being addressed.

**MS. CULP:**

Yes, we absolutely do have a Zika Action Plan. That was a requirement of New York State Department of Health. It is on our website, so anyone, the public can access the plan. And we've

Health Committee 5/26/16

also been rolling out with various brochures that I think all of you have gotten regarding mosquito-borne illnesses in general, but including Zika.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Thank you very much. And if there could be some sort of a formal briefing, besides what you have, that I would like to receive, to just kind of know the details of the plan. And I would also like to know, is there any budgetary impact for the additional, I guess, infrastructure we may need in order to enact this plan, if there's any monies?

**MS. CULP:**

Sure, we'll get back to you.

**CHAIRMAN SPENCER:**

Thank you. I have no other business before this committee. We stand adjourned. Thank you. Happy Memorial Day.

*(\*The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m. \*)*