

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

MINUTES

A meeting of the 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 November 16, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. DuWayne Gregory, Chairman
Leg. Kara Hahn, Vice Chair
Leg. Kate M. Browning
Leg. Lou D'Amaro
Leg. Edward P. Romaine (Absent)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Deputy Presiding Officer
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
William Shilling, Legislative Aide
Diane Dono, Budget Review Office
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office
Paul Perillie, Aide to Leg. Gregory
Alyssa Turano, Aide to Leg. Hahn
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy
Rick Brand, Newsday
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Dr. Richard Koubek, Chairman/Welfare to Work Commission
Kathy Liguori, Childcare Committee Welfare to Work Commission
Adrian Fassett, Chief Executive Officer/Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc.
Raymond Spatafora, appointee/SC Youth Board Coordinating Council
Susan B. Koenig, appointee/ Teen Pregnancy Advisory Board
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:06 AM

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Good morning everyone. Welcome to today's Human Services Committee. If you will rise as we say the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Hahn.

SALUTATION

Okay. If we all remain standing for a moment of silence as we celebrate on Monday our veterans and remember them, those that have served and those who are serving in harm's way.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Okay. Okay, again, welcome to today's Human Services Committee. Because of the holiday, instead of meeting on Monday, we're meeting on Friday. So, I'm sure some people haven't adjusted to that.

We're going to go to the Public Portion. Is there anyone that would like to speak? Fill out a card. Okay. All right.

PRESENTATION

Next we're going to go to presentations. I apologize. There was a mix up. We did have a presentation on our original agenda. We thought the presentation was going to be delayed to the next meeting so we took it off, but we were wrong and I apologize for that. They're going to present today. We have Kathy Liguori and Dick Koubek, the Co-Chairs for the Welfare to Work Commission. Could you please come forward. And Adrian Fassett, okay.

DR. KOUBEK:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. My name is Richard Koubek. And I am the Chair of the Welfare to Work Commission of the Suffolk Legislature. And we're here today to discuss with you a report that we submitted in October -- late October regarding cuts in the childcare funding to Suffolk County that have had very negative impacts on children and also on the providers and on the larger community and the economy -- recovering economy of Suffolk County.

I'd like to give a little background on how we got here. And then the Chair of our Childcare Committee will report on a study that we conducted to drill down and find out what these cuts that I'm going to describe have been doing to the Suffolk economy.

But let me begin with the mess we're in. I know you're familiar with it. And we did write to you about it. And you wrote to Governor Cuomo objecting to these cuts. And we thank you for that. Each of the members of the Legislature signed that letter. But it's good just to sort of set the context for what Kathy will be reporting.

When welfare reform was enacted in 1996, and there was a lot of dispute for and against it, but the one thing that everyone agreed upon about welfare reform beginning with President Clinton was there must be supportive services for people who are leaving welfare to go to work and that childcare was critical to the survival -- to the economic survival and the wellbeing of the people leaving welfare to work, and especially to their children.

Our Commission and our Childcare Committee has been monitoring this issue for over three years. And I just want to remind you that of the funding that comes in through the Office of Children and Family Services in New York State, only about 25% of that grant -- the Childcare Block Grant, goes for the working poor. 75% goes for the mandated services of people who are on welfare.

But our focus today is on the working poor, the folks who have left welfare and are out there on their own earning too much to get welfare, but still could qualify for this important support and critically needed. And if they don't get it, may go back on welfare.

Since 2009 the funds for Suffolk County's Childcare have been cut by \$3.5 million. And what's bizarre about this -- excuse me -- is that the funds were cut while the Department of Social Services was serving more and more children. So that the number of kids who were in working poor families receiving the subsidy, the childcare subsidy, rose from 3,627 in 2009 to about 5900 in 2011. That's a tremendous increase. And yet while we serve more kids, we got less and less money.

I think the final insult came in April of this year when OCFS announced another \$143,000 was going to be cut on top of what had already been cut over the last three years; by the way, the same year that they announced over \$2 million of an increase for Nassau County that has comparable childcare needs. So this already sent for us an alarm bell, what is going on here? We never were able to answer that.

The results of these cuts has been that the parents have had to increase their co-pay from 15% to 30%. Now these are working poor people. At the time, one year ago today, one year ago November, we were serving parents who were earning 200% of the federal poverty level. That's about \$46,000 for a family of four. So they had to now begin paying 30% instead of 15% of the cost. As the full impact of the cuts hit the County, the Department of Social Services reluctantly and sadly and really angrily had to deal with the fiscal realities and they began reducing the eligibility. So that right now it has gone from 200% of the federal poverty level, 46,000 for a family of four, to the federal poverty level, which is \$23,050 for a family of four. While Nassau is providing 275% of the federal poverty level.

So as a result we have lost 2,254 children from the subsidized Childcare Program, working poor people. And the County has had to close subsidized childcare for any new families. It's frozen. I think you all know that the Commission held hearings on suburban poverty and Suffolk County poverty in the Spring. And a number of the people who testified were the women, particularly single moms, whose kids were being cut from childcare. And they told us the reality. I mean, you know, we deal with these numbers, but then real people go to a microphone, and this is what told us: Some of them may have to go on welfare. Some of them are going -- and they're already poor -- were going to have reduce their hours so they could meet the lower eligibility. Some of them were going to have quit their jobs altogether. And I think one of the most disturbing things, some of them were going to be placing their children in unqualified, unsupervised, unregulated, possibly dangerous childcare settings.

So this why we're grateful that you sent a letter that you did to Governor Cuomo asking him to tell his Office of Children and Family Services this is unacceptable; that we need to have a restoration, that we need to change the formula. And, as you know from our report to you, in our letter to you, the funding formula did not account for the fact that we, with the permission of the Office of Family and Children Services, we took the Federal Stimulus money and applied it to what we thought was really important in this County. Let's get more kids into childcare.

That in the long run, although DSS was permitted to do it, that in the long run became the basis for the cut. Because what OCFS does in its outdated formula is, it says we will measure only what you're spending of what we give you in the Childcare Block Grants. *So obviously you're not spending it; we're cutting you.* So we have gone with you, the Legislators, we have gone with the County Executive, we have gone with the Department of Social Services here, there and everywhere with State officials to say "undue this, fix it, change it." And we've gotten nowhere.

One suggestion that was made to us by Legislator Kennedy was -- who very much supports our efforts of restoration "why don't you look at the business impacts?" This is not just about children,

serious as that is. But this is going to have a long term impact on the economy of Suffolk County and an immediate impact. He said "go figure out what it is."

And so I'm going to now yield the microphone to Kathy Liguori, who is in the field. She is a provider and did some excellent research that we've shared with you.

MS. LIGUORI:

Thank you. So, again, to respond to Legislator Kennedy's request, I was able to survey 12 centers, large centers with license capacity over 130 children. And nine of them responded with their data to me understanding that this is a highly competitive industry and they want their information kept confidential.

So in the report that we show you, we just -- we just identify them as center one, two, three, four and so forth. Of the entire group of centers, they serve a license capacity of approximately 1200 children. Of those totals, 310 employees -- they had 310 employees employed at the time before the cuts. They had 207 full-time employees and 66 part-time employees.

The cuts began in January of 2012 and then again in April when we had to reduce the income eligibility from 100% -- 185% down to 150%. And then again in July we had cuts; and then again in September because of the lawsuit against the Empire Justice Center -- with the Empire Justice Center. That resulted for these nine centers that responded, it resulted in 345 children being cut from care throughout that time period. It resulted in 34 full-time positions being eliminated. It resulted in 11 part-time positions being eliminated. And then we also had to consider the full-time equivalent hours based on the reduced hours of employment. Most childcare centers operate anywhere -- their payroll is anywhere between 50 and 62% of their revenue. So you have to hold your payroll very tightly. It's the difference of make or break. So the full-time equivalence of the reduced hours equated to 24 additional people being lost or being laid off.

As we looked at the overall amounts of children being served and the number of centers that are licensed, whether it is a childcare center or a family daycare center or a group family, we equate that to -- there are -- actually there are 986 licensed childcare providers in Suffolk County. So we equate that over -- the 2200 children that were lost overall throughout the County to be overall an over loss of approximately 400 jobs that would be cut because of this funding cut.

The dollar amounts for these nine centers equated to 2 point -- almost \$2.5 million in lost revenues. And we highlight that on this sheet here for you so you can actually see by center the overall annual costs that -- or the losses of revenue that they endured. Some of them are on the brink of closing. It's really, really very difficult out there. And despite these cuts, Hurricane Sandy really, really took its toll even further on them while they couldn't open because of power losses, damages, etcetera.

So -- the study that we did, as you have the summary here, we asked specific questions. And of those questions we also asked about did they have any salary freezes? And six centers reported that they would be, which came to -- approximately 56% of them were going to have put salary freezes together. And many of them also planned on reducing salaries throughout this next year, if they could remain open. And they also -- 11% of them decided to eliminate their employee benefits.

I know that some of them also reported, which is not included in this study, that they decided to take away sick days and vacation days just in order to meet their standards by the State regulations.

There's a pie chart as well on this -- attached to this report that shows you the different modalities of care provided by the licensed childcare providers in Suffolk County. And so far through 2012 -- and this is as of September -- and I'm sure these numbers have grown, but of the 986 licensed childcare providers that were in Suffolk County, 69 of them have closed thus far since 2012.

And they are all -- they're all distributed in various districts. So no one really has been immune to this.

I'd like to turn this to Adrian Fassat from the EOC of Suffolk so he can talk specifically about the cuts to his center and then speak a little bit more about some of the situations that have actually taken place with the children.

MR. FASSAT:

Sure. Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is Adrian Fassett. I'm the CEO of Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk. We're a non-profit organization here in Suffolk County and we're the owner and operator of the East Patchogue Tutor Time. We're the only non-profit that actually owns a Tutor Time in the United States of America.

We're also -- no, let me rephrase that. We were one of the largest childcare providers for Suffolk County. We've committed ourself and our agency to provide childcare to the working poor and low income. These cuts affect us tremendously. And I just want to give you some statistics on this. Since the cuts in May, our enrollment -- let me -- we enrolled -- our enrollment -- our maximum enrollment is 164 children in our centers. We have an average of 129 FTE. We do FTE's, full-time environment, based on part-time, full-time individuals.

Since May our enrollment has gone from May 93.8, June 87.4, July 95.6 and August -- that's because of the Empire lawsuit -- 101, September 46.9, October 50. So as of October we have 50 children full-time enrollment.

Our deficit since May has been -- I'm going to round this off -- May 46,000, June 46,000, July 8,000, August 14,000, September 38,000, and October we lost \$68,000. For the year we're at a loss \$189,000 for the year.

Now obviously we cannot sustain this. What we are trying to do is come up with plans to see how we can keep our center open until some things have changed here. The problem we have is we have no idea if there are any changes coming. We're not sure where the State is on this. And to be honest, we're not sure where our County Executive's on this.

We have laid off 12 employees at this point. From the families we have surveyed, 42 of the families we surveyed, they had to leave their job because of a lack of childcare and go on unemployment. And I mean economically for this County, that's unbelievable. Kathy was talking about cutting wages. We tried to save some staff by asking would some people take pay cuts; then we had to remember, *whoop, can't do that because we have to pay Living Wages based on the County provisions.*

So we're at the point that as one of the largest childcare providers for the County and an Agency that is committed to providing quality childcare for the working poor and low income, we have to make a decision very soon before we sink our whole agency whether or not we can stay in this business. And to us this is truly devastating, even for the 50 kids we have, they are very important us to. And we close, where do those 50 kids go?

So I understand that the Legislative body here has been doing all they can, but this is truly a true emergency. So, just wanted to give you some real facts from a real operating center.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

I want to thank you for presenting. I know we're going to have a press conference at eleven so I don't know how much detail we want to go into, but I certainly want to thank you for coming. Kathy, you were going to say something?

MS. LIGUORI:

I did. I just wanted to remind you that for every dollar that's invested, government dollar that's invested into childcare, it yields \$2 into the larger economy. And that based on these cuts is equating to a \$17 million loss to the childcare industry, which will cost Suffolk County's economy about \$34 million for all of those staff that are laid off. And even more as parents quit their jobs because they lost childcare.

And then we also remember this impact report, the childcare industry, that for every dollar that the Federal and State generates toward our economy, it yields almost -- every dollar that we spend here locally, it yields \$10 back into our local economy from the Federal and State government. So we can't close our eyes to this. We all know the devastation that we endured here just with Hurricane Sandy. We know what that distress was. We had no power. We couldn't get gas. We felt it. But for these children, they go without power, they go without heat. Childcare is their home away from home. They've lost that. We don't know what they're living in right now. And it's serious. We're not -- you know, there seems to be something of a finger pointing game as to why and how we got here. But that doesn't mean anything to a child. They're here raising their hands and their little fingers are going unnoticed. And it's all of our moral obligation to leave a legacy for them. They're our future and they are our economy.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

I agree that -- you know, I was talking to my colleague to my left, Kara Hahn, who brought up several times in our Budget Working Group meetings -- and to be honest we didn't have a full discussion about it. There was some peripheral discussions about it. And I think the position was because of the advice of the Department of Social Services in our understanding of how the formula works and the State operates, that any additional monies that the County presents in the Budget for childcare would, in turn, cause a negative effect from the Childcare Block Grant. So we're putting -- even if we had the monies, do we put monies -- additional County monies towards childcare subsidies and the State will look at that in a negative way and decrease their State allocation to us? You know, there's different opinions on that.

But, you know, there's a lobbying effort, you know, with the Governor and the State Legislature, but the Governor's Office in particular; hopefully that will be resolved in a positive way. And our numbers have gone up, I think, as you've stated, but our funding has gone down. And Nassau's number have gone down but their funding is going up. There's different explanations as to why that has happened. But -- there is -- you know, there is -- I think there's one clear consistency that's been mentioned, is that the formula has to be changed. And obviously it keeps changing, but it has to change in a way that it makes sense. And, you know, we shouldn't be penalized because we receive our funds or we put additional County funds towards childcare subsidies.

Do any of my colleagues have any questions or --

LEG. D'AMARO:

I just want to make a comment.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. I also -- I appreciate your passion for the issue. As a parent myself, I can certainly relate to the fact that we can't forget about the kids. That's for sure. But I want to go back to something that was said at the opening with respect to the funding that Nassau County receives. And we've had the Commissioner here on several occasions throughout the year to talk to this Committee about what's happening with the subsidy and the funding from the State for childcare. And my recollection is that we are -- we as a County are being penalized in effect for

some prior spending that we had done. I think you had mentioned it in your opening comments. And I just wanted to get a handle on how much of the problem that we're having where we had to lower the amount of funding down to the poverty level, not even a percentage of the poverty level anymore, how much of that, the fact that we're being penalized, is now attributable to the problems that we're having. We were at one point up to 200% of the federal poverty level for eligibility. We're now down to the actual poverty level.

What are -- what's the prime factor driving that? Is it the fact that the State of New York just doesn't want to revise the funding formula and take out -- what is it, Stimulus Funding that we actually spend on daycare and now we're being penalized for doing that? Is that the primary driver of the problem here?

DR. KOUBEK:

That's our understanding, Legislator D'Amaro. I happen to -- in our research, I got the ADMs, the memoranda, that the State gives to the local districts. And if I tell you there were 30 page in two separate memoranda from the State instructing the districts on how they could use the ARRA funding and what they had to do to use the ARRA funding -- a lot of districts opted for -- this was Federal Stimulus -- so a lot of districts opted to use the funding for building things.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

DR. KOUBEK:

You know, for building playgrounds and that sort of thing. We opted because we already had waiting lists and we've been having a problem meeting demand, so our district opted, as we were instructed -- as they were instructed to do -- to use the ARRA funding; not being told that if you do that -- so you have 10, 20, 30 pages of instruction and no where could we find --

LEG. D'AMARO:

-- right.

DR. KOUBEK:

-- the caveat. If you do this --

LEG. D'AMARO:

And we're all feeling -- we're all feeling that frustration. Even the Commissioner who's been here again on several occasions, we're all frustrated with the State and we've done our letters and, you know, I'm sure that the County Executive's Office is also trying to do something up in Albany as well. It's a -- you know, I share all of your frustration. And it's -- it's just -- I don't know what else to call it other than dysfunction at the State level. And I don't say that lightly being a Government official myself. I know it's very difficult in these tough times, but it seems to me that if you took that funding and put it in a really good spot, why should you be penalized down the road for having done that is just -- defies logic. Just defies logic, yeah.

DR. KOUBEK:

And then what happens in these kinds of situations a buzz develops. And so the buzz among people who know the childcare industry is, "well, they shouldn't have used that money in the first place", even though there are all of these pages of instruction on how to do so.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What does that mean exactly "you shouldn't have used that money"? I mean the funding was provided as a block grant from the Federal Government.

DR. KOUBEK:

Yeah.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. And there was nothing prohibiting how the funds were ultimately used. What's --

DR. KOUBEK:

Well, there were prohibitions but using it for --

LEG. D'AMARO:

No, no. I mean in this way.

DR. KOUBEK:

Yeah, using it for childcare was not --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. So why would someone then conclude now "well, you shouldn't have"? In other words, we should have known in advance even though it was nowhere in black and white that we would be penalized as a County for trying to, you know, keep kids in daycare so that the working poor and the parents could go and work? I mean, that's a ludicrous argument.

DR. KOUBEK:

That's exactly my response any time I hear this out in the field. "What do you mean we shouldn't have?" It was an excellent use of the funding. And, in fact, while the ARRA Funding was used -- I don't have the data in front of me, but there was a dramatic rise in the number of kids we were serving. And the waiting list disappeared.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

DR. KOUBEK:

So what better use? But as happens in these complicated policy issues, the buzz develops and then it gets out there. And it's totally incorrect. And so in the end you have folks saying "Well, it's the County's fault. If the County had not used the ARRA Funds, this wouldn't have happened." It make no sense.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'll take that blame.

MS. LIGUORI:

If I might add that the way the allocation methodology is set, it's based on the childcare claims for the last four years. And with the ARRA money this was in there that we did use for childcare, it then was used against us in that manner. Because they said *now in this year's funding methodology, we are not going to consider the ARRA money that was used because it was a temporary fund. It was relief money.* So that's where they say "you shouldn't have used it as part of your demand and expected it. You shouldn't have counted on that."

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MS. LIGUORI:

But we can't control the rising number of temporary assistance families that's has grown over 50%, which is why you have to -- our County has to add three point plus million dollars to our Budget this year to meet the mandatory expenses.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It's very unfortunate, but, you know, we'll do whatever we can. The problem -- the frustration I have, and I'm sure we all share it, is that having gone through our budget process just recently, we don't have the funding to make up the difference. That is the problem. Even if we did, as the Chair pointed out, there is -- and I'm not an expert in this area, but I've been told that we would actually be penalized once again for having more of a local share going into this. So there's a whole host of issues revolving around that. But I thank you for your passion. I thank you for your presentation. And I appreciate you keeping us up to date. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Yes. Legislator Hahn.

LEG. HAHN:

Dysfunction, formulas, ARRA Funds, the five-year-old in the childcare center, or no longer in the childcare center, doesn't care about these things. And I'm sorry, about that is exactly where we should have been investing our money. That is exactly where we should be investing our money this year. And I, you know, said to the working group -- and whatever, you brought it up -- sorry, DuWayne, but we need to man up on this. I don't -- I don't care. These kids have to be in a safe place now. These families have to be able to be working. My daughter's childcare center shut down. It was lucky for us. It was timely. She was entering kindergarten anyway.

But this is happening everywhere. You know, centers are closing. And there's, you know -- this -- these children need to be in safe places. And to be going into unregulated care is exactly what we've been fighting for so many years to avoid that; to build up the system so there's quality options that are accessible to families. And especially these families, the ones struggling and working hard and -- I mean -- and, Dick, I wanted to interrupt you in the beginning. The working poor, earning too much to get welfare. I'm sorry. Earning too much and then in that category just doesn't -- you can't even say that in a sentence without making me cringe because a family of four, you know, making those dollar amounts that you spoke of, that's not earning too much in anybody's mind on Long Island. And, you know, 200% of Federal poverty doesn't get you anywhere on Long Island. And we need to be supporting those families.

And so I'm sorry for coming across this way, but I'm very frustrated by this. And we have to work on this so that we can work -- you know, work together and force the issue. We need to take care of these children and these families. And thank you, Kathy, Adrian, Mr. Koubek for all your work on this. And keep -- we need to keep pushing.

DR. KOUBEK:

We will be back in -- we'll be releasing the Report on Poverty that came out of our hearings. And one of our conclusions is that the true poverty level for Long Island is 200% of the federal poverty level. It's 46,000. That's the real poverty level. So you're talking about truly poor people.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay. Thank you. So we'll see you in a few minutes.

DR. KOUBEK:

Yes.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Let's go on with our agenda.

DR. KOUBEK:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

We have Mr. Raymond Spatafora, who's here. We're going to take his appointment out of order so I make a motion to take **IR 2008** out of order, seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We have **IR 2008** before is. I'll take a motion to approve by Legislator D'Amaro. I will second it. Hi, Mr. Spatafora. How are you? Let me read the motion -- bill -- excuse me. **IR 2008, to appoint member of Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council (Raymond R. Spatafora). (Co. Exec.)**

MR. SPATAFORA:

Thank you. How are you's?

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Good.

MR. SPATAFORA:

I'll tell you a little about myself. I'm a lifelong resident of Huntington Station. I am -- I work for the school system right now. I retired from the Town of Huntington. And I'm in the schools now so I'm with the young kids all the time. I'm also a firefighter. And I was just elected Fire Commissioner in the Huntington Manor District. And I'm always with the youths of Huntington Station. Like I say, I grew up there. And I thought I would do a nice job with this, you know, with the kids. Because I'm always with them everyday: Football games, basketball games. And I know what's out there and what they really need because I live it. So other than that...

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Great. The Huntington Manor Fire, that's the one by what? 23rd Street? East 23rd, right on the --

MR. SPATAFORA:

Yeah. We have three of them.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Right.

MR. SPATAFORA:

We have one on New York Avenue and 23rd Street and Jericho.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Push your finger on the mic.

MR. SPATAFORA:

Sorry. I was just elected Fire Commissioner. I'll do a nice job for them.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Yeah.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And, Mr. Chair, if I could, you know, Mr. Spatafora is very humble in his description. He's eminently qualified and we're lucky that he's volunteering his service yet again. You've done so for years and

years and years, especially working with something call Project Excel.

MR. SPATAFORA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Which coordinated and supervised the summer work problem for disadvantaged youths within the Huntington area. You've also worked as a mentor --

MR. SPATAFORA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

-- to kids. Always looking out for the kids in need, even when you were working in the schools. You know all the kids. They know you.

MR. SPATAFORA:

That's right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And, you know, we're very lucky to have him. So I'd appreciate the Committee's support on his appointment.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Great. Anyone else? All right. Thank you. We have a motion to approve before us. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? You are approved **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. ROMAINE ABSENT)** Because you're approved in Committee, you don't have to show up at the General Meetings so congratulations.

MR. SPATAFORA:

Thank you very much. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

All right. Tabled resolutions. We have **IR 1842, To appoint member to the Teen Pregnancy Advisory Board (Susan B. Koenig). (Spencer)** She'S present, okay, great. Please come forward.

MS. KOENIG:

Good morning. How are you?

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Good. Just introduce yourself.

MS. KOENIG:

Sure. My name is Susan Koenig. I'm a licensed clinical social worker. I'm currently the high school social worker for Harborfields High School. I also have a lot of experience working with teens in my private practice and working for ten years at Victims' Information Bureau. So, my expertise is working with teenagers in a social worker profession. I'm a resident of Centereach and grew up in Huntington.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Does anyone have any questions? Legislator Hahn.

LEG. HAHN:

No.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay, motion to approve by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Your appointment is confirmed. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. ROMAINE ABSENT)**

MS. KOENIG:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

You do not have to show up at the General Meeting so congratulations.

MS. KOENIG:

Thank you so much.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

IR 1874, To appoint member to the Teen Pregnancy Advisory Board (Jeannette Morales) (Spencer) Is she present? I don't see her so we'll motion to table to our next meeting, second by Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. ROMAINE ABSENT)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

New resolutions, **IR 1999, Amending the 2012 Adopted Operating Budget to transfer funds to Nassau-Suffolk Law Services. (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Hahn.

Counsel, can you just give a brief explanation?

MS. SIMPSON:

This might actually be better for Budget Review --

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Yes.

MS. SIMPSON:

-- since it is amending the Budget.

MS. DONO:

This money is already in the Adopted 2012 Budget. Apparently the Bar Association did not have sufficient staff to run this particular program, but Nassau-Suffolk Law Services does. So this is transferring the money to the agency that can run the program.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Good. They just have the next six weeks to spend it.

MS. DONO:

Right.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

All right. So, I'll make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Hahn -- oh, D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. ROMAINE ABSENT)**

That is our agenda. We stand adjourned. Thank you.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:47 AM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**