

**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 December 9, 2014.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Monica Martinez, Chairwoman  
Leg. Kate M. Browning, Vice Chair  
Leg. Lou D'Amaro  
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey  
Leg. Robert Trotta

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Jason Richberg, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Jill Moss, Director/Budget Review Office  
Tom Vaughn, County Executive's Office  
John O'Neill, Commissioner/Department of Social Services  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:05 PM**

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Good afternoon and welcome to today's Human Services Committee. If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to be led by Legislator Trotta.

**SALUTATION**

Thank you. Please be seated. Okay, today's agenda, we do not have any correspondence. Clerk, are there any cards for today?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

No cards.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

No cards. Anyone in the audience who would like to come forward and speak before the Committee?

**PRESENTATIONS**

Okay, so we're going to continue to our presentation. Today we have the Parent Leadership Initiative of Long Island, also known as PLI. And today we have with us Sandra Gil, the Islip Site Coordinator along with Danielle Asher, who is a Director. Nice to see you again. Good afternoon.

**MS. ASHER:**

Good afternoon everybody. Thank you so much for having us today. Again, I'm Daniel Asher. I'm the Director of the Parent Leadership. And this is Sandra Gil, who's our Site Coordinator in the Town of Islip. She'll introduce herself in a little bit. And thank you, Legislator Martinez for inviting us here today.

So Parent Leadership Initiative Long Island is a program of the Child Care Council of Suffolk, which I'm sure many of you are familiar with the work of the Child Care Council. You should have been given a red folder. Hi, Kate. You should have been given a red folder that has lots of information, not only about parent leadership, but about the Child Care Council and um -- the program started about 20 years ago, a little more than that, when Janet Walerstein recognized that in New York State there were all these advocates and professionals fighting for childcare, but there wasn't a voice of parents. And that was how parent leadership began. And it evolved from that because it's not just about childcare; it's about all issues that affect children and families in all of our communities.

And the program exists in five townships throughout Suffolk County. We're in Town of Huntington, Southampton, Islip, Brookhaven, Babylon and -- what did I leave out? Oh, that was it; that was five. I'm looking for the sixth one because we are actually expanding into Nassau but we're not -- we're in total pilot phase with that.

But anyway, so -- so within the townships we tried to focus on, you know, local government, local community. We look for parents to be part of the program that are throughout the entire townships so that we can show the diversity of Suffolk County. And the program basically takes the passions that parents and people that care for children and families have and teach them the advocacy skills to be leaders in their communities. So you'll see all sorts of projects come out of Parent Leadership from people running for school board to people just wanting to do, you know, something with their PTA or people that are interested in community centers. And later Sandra will talk about some of

the projects that people have gone forward with.

But it basically gives you the skills and working knowledge and confidence needed to make change in your community. And it's really been such -- I wish I had graduates here to talk to you because they are -- they are the voice you want to hear about this program, hearing how it's changed people's lives. We have some parents that come to us -- this past year I had -- at the end of the year -- the end of the program someone come up to me and say, you know, "thank you so much. You know, I have a GED. And other than -- this feels like I went to college, like how much information I was given and I feel ready to take on the community and do what needs to be done, you know, for our kids."

Then I have another parent who recently graduated from Brookhaven and she's in the midst of getting her Master's degree. And she's like, wow, she's like, I wish I did -- I knew, because the education I'm getting in school is what I'm getting here at PLI. Because they're learning about government and they're learning about how their community works. And we discuss things like diversity. And, again, we'll get a little more into the program but it's such a powerful program that transforms parents' lives. And it really can encourage us to, you know, hear that parent voice, hear the voice of the community and work together in our communities to make Suffolk County stronger.

So I wanted to talk a little bit about how the program works. And just to start, and then I'm going to turn the mic over to Sandra, in your red folders, you'll see a -- see two packets -- it's like just two pages that look like this (referring). There's some charts. We are part of a national network that does parent leadership initiatives. And in two of our sites, in Huntington and Babylon, they were able to compile some data for us to show us statistics of what -- of what the program looks like before and after.

So just to briefly point out, the first and, I think, the second page, that kind of tells you the demographics, the race and ethnicity, the education level and the income level because one of the pillars of PLI is that diversity. Like I said, we stretch across the township but we really look to cover all bases to have everyone in the room to really create a good dialogue and learn from each other; be resources for one another.

On that next page the first line graph, I thought this would be interesting to you because we survey the participants before and then after the program to see their level of government and what they understand. And it shows huge increase, you know, and 30 something percent of people that have awareness of government, who their Legislators are, how laws are made. And it increases tremendously by the end of the program. And in the last chart it just shows the difference in civic participation. And again because people have those skills and the knowledge, they begin to get more and more involved and you see that also go up. And so you'll see the same thing in Babylon and Huntington. Statistics are very similar as they are in all of our sites. So I thought that would be interesting, you know, to share with you.

And now I'll turn the mic over to you.

**MS. GIL:**

Thank you. Good afternoon everybody. Again, Legislator Martinez, thank you for the opportunity to be here this afternoon. Close to four years ago I started this great challenge of being, you know, the coordinator for Islip in, you know, in the PLI Program. And I think it's the best thing that I have done, you know, I guess in my adulthood. And I really believe that being a town resident -- I am from Brentwood, the same district where Legislator Martinez is our Legislator. And she had the opportunity to meet with some of our participants at that time in training. And then, you know -- and then she was able to really observe the diversity like Danielle was saying, the passion that many of our participants start to really develop and increase throughout the -- you know, the

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training. And they really go after that to do great things and to really invest in the communities that they belong.

Parent Leadership Initiative is a 17-weeks program. We do two retreats. The first retreat is basically to get everybody together, you know, get them all ignited and, you know, ready to begin the process of training. And for 15 consecutive Thursdays, in this particular case for Islip, we get together for two hours every week. And then we talk about a lot of stuff. And we give them a lot of information either regarding how to become an agent of change, how to -- how the government works, how community resources that are available to us and how can we utilize them to the best of our, you know, our needs. We also talk about how to build networks and coalitions. We obviously, you know, talk about how to become good public speakers; and how to interpret a budget; and how does government branches really work for us and for our, you know, our families, so.

And on the second -- and on the second retreat, we basically get together in the middle of the training program to just kind of like to start shaping up what we call a project. And that's one of the requirements that every parent leader in training will be able to really invest time after graduation in putting a program back into their community whether it's joining a PTA, whether it's starting their own network; or whether it's maybe just kind of like starting a new program in their daycare center, or in their places of worship or things like that. They have no restrictions. Whatever they decide to do, whether it's at their local family level or whether it's joining efforts with a bigger organization, that's really where they go and do their work.

Some of their success stories that Danielle was talking about, and I have been very, very happy to see some of these graduates, you know, be part of, it's -- one of them in Brentwood, very local, very dear to my heart, Brentwood Gardens, Anna Martinez and Maxima Castro, two women from, you know, the Brentwood area who were very concerned about their safety of their neighbors, you know, this lot was in a lot of disrepair, you know, it became the dumping site for anybody and everybody who came into the community and wanted to get rid of their tires or their, you know, garbage or whatever the case may be. And they took, you know, these responsibilities very seriously. And now they made it a beautiful place, you know, where people can gather and community residents can plant their fruits and vegetables, you know, over the summer. And they share experiences. And they feel, you know, secure and they feel that they are part of a community that they didn't know before.

Obviously we have other community projects also in the same nature, you know, with another community garden that was formed in the opposite side of Brentwood by another two graduates. You know, Samuel and Agi Gonzalez, another successful story, beautiful place. Now they have Christmas parties over there. I mean, the works. So you're ever out in the community, please join us. You know, you will really enjoy that.

But then, you know, that's part of the things that they do. But then I also have women who come from English as a second language, organizations that they thought that they didn't speak English enough to join such groups like PLI. And before you know, they were speaking perfect English, maybe better than mine. And they went out there and they started to do great things for their community in Spanish, but that's okay. That's how -- where they felt comfortable and that's exactly where, you know, they're making an impact and they're obviously being that representative, you know, that we want them to be.

And then obviously, you know, I'm going to be obviously not selfish enough to talk about other things that other people do in other communities. And, yes, you know, every -- every other township they also go out and there are people from the Patchogue/Medford area that they have become school board members. We have also people from the East End, you know, joining the -- and cofounding actually the African American Museum in the Hamptons area. And then great

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people in the Huntington area that have created mentoring programs for young women, you know, so we have really the gamut, you know, women and men, you know, that have been trained joining great efforts such as National Voter Registration Days. They have been part of keeping Islip clean or being part of a cleaning project whether it's in the Brookhaven township or not.

So those are pretty much, you know, some of the many, many projects, you know. During the time that I have been with the Islip Program, just in Islip alone, I have been able to work with about 40 powerful individuals, you know, that are here to really be part of the communities that they live, to bring change where change is needed, and to enhance the services that we well deserve as Suffolk County residents.

### **MS. ASHER:**

Thank you, Sandra. So each of the sites has a coordinator. They have a Sandra Gil on the ground. And they're the person that really outreaches and does the recruitment. Each applicant does go through an interview process to make sure that they have the commitment level to sustain the full program. And then we also have facilitators in each site who are those that facilitate the curriculum and offer the support for their projects and things like that.

After they graduate we also have a graduate coalition which we've really -- I've been a Director about a year-and-a-half so that's been my big undertaken of trying to build up that support system, to make sure that after they graduate, the participants feel they have that support to keep on going.

So we also do things like take a bus to Albany every year during budget season. And we have a conference -- a leadership conference where we get to invite a lot of our other community organizer partners and Legislators and people to come and speak to the graduates -- graduates and current participants. And that's going to be in the Spring.

So our vision, you know, overall we have a big vision because we need to sustain our program. To just speak about our immediate needs, we really -- we're in referral season. So if any of you, you know, that are working on the ground, I know, you know, all of you are people that are out in your communities, we're looking for participants for the 2015 season. We begin in January. And, again, we look to -- when we talk about diversity, we're talking about everything: Race, ethnicity, religious affiliations, gender, sexual orientations, socioeconomic education and again across full townships. So referrals are always a great, you know, a way for Legislators to help us. If you have -- if you have a list or if you want to send out the information, we can send you stuff. We generally graduate between 70 and 90 people across all sites a year. And the program runs January to June if we didn't say that.

So another hope that we're hoping in the near future, I don't think it will be the 2015 season, but we're looking to offer the training in -- you know, training bilingually. Like Sandra mentioned, we do attract a lot of folks that are Spanish-speaking and learning English. So just to help make the learning process easier, we would love to be able to offer that in the future. And, again, we are heavily funded by Hagedorn Foundation, which are closing their doors in 2017. We do get funding from a few of the townships and we're working on a few others. I'm waiting to get word whether or not we'll get some funding from the townships. But we're -- you know, this is something we're looking to really sustain and continue to grow into the townships we're not in. So maybe we'll see in the future if the County can ever help us with that.

And, again, you're always invited as Legislators to please -- we have several opportunities for you to address and come see what we do in action. As Sandra mentioned, we start with those retreats. We have a Saturday retreat. Every weekend in January pretty much we're in the different sites and you're welcome to join us for breakfast at those retreats to say hello and meet the participants. We also ask that you come and address the class. When we do our government section, it's so great to

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have someone come. I know Legislator Browning's been in the past and Legislator Martinez; several others that aren't here today, that come and they talk about how government works. And that's another really great moment for the participants because people are *like, wow, they put their pants on one leg at a time like me* and they know you're just like them and that you're, you know, not someone over here that they can't reach. So it's so great when you come and address the class. They learn that you were once them, leaders in the community that, you know, who knew if you aspired to be this or not but this is where you ended up.

And then also, so besides the classes that we can schedule, we also have our graduations in June, which we always appreciate your attendance and, you know, to come address the community, learn about what their projects were and different things. So I think that's it. If you have any questions, but otherwise thank you so much for having us today.

### **CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Legislator Trotta.

### **LEG. TROTТА:**

You talked about the garden. Was that at McNair and MacArthur?

### **MS. GIL:**

That's exactly where it's located.

### **LEG. TROTТА:**

So you said you're always like interested in Legislators being involved. So like if a guy wasn't a Legislator, maybe he was a cop and he was parked there for a longtime and he ate some string beans, you wouldn't be upset about that, would you?

### **MS. GIL:**

I wouldn't personally be. I don't think it would upset Anna or Maxima either.

### **LEG. TROTТА:**

I spent a lot of time in that garden.

### **MS. GIL:**

That would -- and I am so happy --

### **LEG. TROTТА:**

It's a great garden. For a while I didn't know what it -- you know -- I spent a year in that garden.

### **MS. GIL:**

Look at that.

### **LEG. TROTТА:**

Not in a row, but a lot of time. That's a great -- they did get a great job there.

### **MS. GIL:**

Yes, they did.

### **LEG. TROTТА:**

Unbelievable eggplant they grew in that place. Very good. I often wondered who did that.

### **MS. GIL:**

I am going to ask him that question but I am definitely going to be able to share that with Maxima

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and Anna. They're going to be very pleased to know that you were there.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I didn't take any eggplant. Maybe a couple string beans.

**MS. GIL:**

All right. Very good. I will do that.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

That's your organization that does that?

**MS. GIL:**

No, it's not mine. It's actually -- the Brentwood Gardens was a project that started before these two women joined PLI. As they were working there, you know, I guess building a network and trying to get these projects started, they were participants of PLI. And they just kind of like gained all that passion because then everybody was asking them questions and everybody was like so interested in --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

You should do more of them, of the houses that are abandoned and torn down, there should be gardens there.

**MS. GIL:**

Well --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

We used a lot of food.

**MS. GIL:**

I guess -- I guess it could be a good project. Let me tell you, maybe I will share it with the other trainees and maybe, you know, you can come over and ignite their passion --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

There used to be a house there.

**MS. GIL:**

-- to get more gardens going.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Just don't eat all those string beans. But, no, that area that you're discussing is a great place. Many community events have taken place, {Apraho} Gardens. And the work that has been put in by all members that live in that -- around the -- you know, surrounding streets and the homes there, it's amazing work what they did. And, yeah, you're right, Legislator Trotta, we do need to build more of those gardens around Brentwood because it is a great place to live. But, ah -- do we have any other questions?

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I have to say there was a couple of invites that I received to come to graduations and other conflicts, but certainly if you could reach out to us -- what was the five areas that you mentioned where you're working?

**MS. ASHER:**

We're in Huntington -- I always go in order of how they started. Huntington, South Hampton, Islip,

Babylon, Brookhaven, so.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay.

**MS. ASHER:**

I'll make sure -- our coordinator Jen {Vetter} is Brookhaven. I'll make sure she reaches out to your office.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

And as far as, you know, us recommending anyone for the PLI Program, I'd kind of like to get a little bit more background about who you're looking for, specifically what you're looking for.

**MS. ASHER:**

Right.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

You know, are these single parents, are they, you know --

**MS. ASHER:**

It's anyone. I mean, again when I say diversity, I mean it. We want to have -- generally we find it's -- it's not young, young people. It's usually maybe people that finished college or maybe are on the end of finishing college like early 20s and up. And we get everyone from single parents to -- anything, anything. Some people aren't even parents but they just care so much about children and families. And that's what we require. But we really -- we very purposefully try to put together -- we want to have people from Brookhaven, that are from Mastic, that are from Selden, that are from Bellport, we -- from every -- you know, coming from all over.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Right. And so you're not necessarily looking for parents who maybe are having difficulty being parents? It's --

**MS. ASHER:**

No. This is a -- this is a parent -- and, you know, the Council may have something that they may be able to help a parent that has some of those needs, especially if it's childcare. But PLI is more for that parent that's -- we get two types of people: The people that are quiet but feel frustrated or have something that they wish they could say but feel like no one hears them; or the parents that come to your board meetings and slam their fists on the table and they don't know why they're not getting anywhere, but they're so angry and passionate. And we help both -- you know, we get more than that, but those are kind of the two scenarios and we teach them how -- how to set up those goals, how to strategize to get what you want, how do you -- when is it appropriate to write letters and speak publicly and, you know, bring people together, all those kinds of things. We help kind of channel that passion and teach them the skills.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

And actually this morning I met -- you know, the Women's Advisory Board met today. And I think it might be a good idea to reach out to them, too, because, you know, they're actually looking at the issues for next year of what -- what they want to focus on. And I think maybe that's something that you could help them with, is to try to get the message out. I mean I'm happy to reach out to, you know, my community to see if I have parents who would be interested in the PLI. I think it'd be a great idea. But we can -- I'll certainly make sure you can get the information on the Women's Advisory Board to speak with them also.

**MS. ASHER:**

That'd be great. Thank you.

**MS. GIL:**

Actually, Legislator Browning, you know -- and considering those women who are in great need of the services, and because maybe they don't know where to go to, is that I believe very firmly that when those participants train to become Parent Leaders, we're hoping that they will become that resource; or maybe they will join efforts with another already existing agency that are serving those women who are struggling with their parenting skills, whether it's a mandated service or whether that woman or women are just kind of like struggling in getting, you know, their needs met. So we're hoping that those Parent Leaders will be able to make the difference in the lives of those women. And those are the kind of individuals that we're looking for in our training.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Thank you. And I did have the pleasure of assisting one of those classes. And it was a lot of fun. It definitely was. And you do have the entire spectrum. So if you do get the chance to go, my fellow colleagues, you should definitely check it out. It's a -- they're doing great work.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I feel like I owe them.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Thank you for coming today. And I look forward to working with you.

**MS. GIL:**

Thank you very much. Happy holidays.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

You too.

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Okay, now to continue with the agenda, we do not have any Tabled Resolutions but we do have a Introductory Resolution, which I would like to call up our Commissioner of Department of Social Services, Mr. O'Neill.

**The Introductory Resolution 2125, is accepting and appropriating 100% Grant funding in the amount of \$173,072 -- excuse me -- in 100% Federal funding under the Continuum of Care Grant Renewal Program from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and authorizing a contract with United Veterans Beacon House, Inc. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Motion to approve -- yes, but I would also like a little more information regarding this and -- as to where the money is going to be -- how it's going to be allocated, who's going to get the money. I

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know it's a year-to-year grant so what happens, you know, once we use it up.

### **COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Martinez, and the rest of Human Service Committee members. This actually -- this is an annual grant. It actually started in 2006 for a five-year period. And from that point -- it's on a federal fiscal year so October to -- runs to September 30th. This particular resolution is for October 1, '14th through including September '15. It's a total \$173,072. A 165,000 of that is for rental assistance. So it's to provide veterans who normally would be homeless into a permanent housing with just eight units. It's basically a pass-through grant. The money doesn't really touch Department of Social Services, but as per HUD, which is the Federal agency where this grant is coming from, it passes through Department of Social Services and we provide it to the vendor who then provides the eight units of housing, if you will, for veterans, who normally, as I mentioned, would have been homeless.

And as part of it in that community they provide supportive services. It's kind of your peer group. They're all vets. And there's ongoing case management, crisis intervention, alcohol/substance abuse treatment, mental health, medical care, those types of things. They can give -- receive referrals or receive the case management services right on-site.

### **CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

What about the remaining monies?

### **COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

The difference are roughly -- 8,000 would be administration. It goes to the vendor for the administration part of the grant.

### **CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Okay, thank you. Do we have any questions?

### **LEG. D'AMARO:**

Commissioner, how are you today?

### **COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

Very well. Thank you.

### **LEG. D'AMARO:**

I wanted to ask you how -- it's a great program. And it's been reauthorized or funded since 2006?

### **COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

That's correct.

### **LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah. And so how does the -- who determines which veteran gets the assistance and the help and the funding?

### **COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

It would be a joint cooperation between DSS and the vendor. Basically if somebody comes to us that's homeless and there's a slot available, we can then forward that referral onto the vendor as well. Plus they have their own network as well.

### **LEG. D'AMARO:**

So the -- an individual who comes to the department who is homeless, needs assistance, of course you're looking at what programs this individual would qualify for. And if they're a veteran, this may

be one that they qualify for.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

That's correct. The way the DSS is set up is that for veterans we have specific vendors that deal just with the veterans. And this is one --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Oh, you do?

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

-- of the vendors.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, so this is one. Is there a specific location that this applies to?

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

Yes. If you want to hold on a moment I could -- I would rather --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

No, I don't need the location.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

-- not put the location on the record. I could find it for you.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, that's okay. Eight units of housing for homeless vets. So this would pay that up until September 30th of 2015. But at that point you would hope that the funding would be reauthorized.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

That's correct. Right now there is a large appetent at the Federal level, as well as the State level, to provide our heroes, our veterans with these types of services. There's an initiative to end veteran homelessness by 2015.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right. How about the need in Suffolk, how severe a need is there?

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

There is a need for what I'll call permanency, if you will, for veterans. We do not have that many homeless veterans in our shelter system. We do have some, but the need is always getting them into a permanency, into a permanent situation, into affordable housing. And this grant allows them to do that. It allows them to stabilize and get into a -- for lack of a better term, a permanent situation for a year, then they can then get on with their lives --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

-- in terms of developing a long-term plan goal.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right, especially with the on-site intervention that's available.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

Correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right. That's a good thing. And one other question, any there any other qualifications to qualify other than being a veteran?

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

No.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

No. Okay. So it's an additional layer that veterans can take advantage of.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

That's correct. And, again, with the thrust being that it's a permanent one-year setting, if you will.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right. Very good. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

You're welcome.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Can I just jump in? Because I have to say I was at a ribbon cutting a couple years ago in my district Habitat for Humanity. It was a homeless veteran who -- single mom. And Beacon Place helped her. And so now she with all the help that has received is now a homeowner. So I have to tell you, it is great stuff. And although I hate to say when you say about ending the homeless issue by 2015, I -- somehow I don't have a lot of confidence that that's going to happen. Because there's many reasons why they're homeless. So, you know, I'll give you a lot of credit that you're going to put every effort into it, but I'm not so sure that's realistic.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

Obviously it's a goal for the Federal government. And DSS will aspire to that. Just to kind of digress a little more on this issue, we actually had a meeting with another group that's actually -- works with Beacon House Supportive Services SUS. And they've actually come into some grant money for veterans' families. So we have three veteran families that qualify under that. We're hoping to get into this housing and get them out of the shelter system. So we continue to explore different ways. Again, it's a goal. And, you know, we will obviously do our best and work our hardest for our heros, our veterans that have served us faithfully and we'll, you know, try to do our best to make sure that we do get to that goal.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Thank you, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER O'NEILL:**

Thank you. And I believe it's the last committee meeting of the year. I just wanted to say Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays to all and thank you again for all your support. It's been very appreciated.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Likewise. Thank you. Okay, so do I have a motion to place on the consent calendar?

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**MR. RICHBERG:**

You have a motion. You don't have a second.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Can I get a second?

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

Second by Legislator McCaffrey. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0/CONSENT CALENDAR)**

This concludes our agenda. Happy holidays and meeting adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:40 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**