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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Legislator Monica R. Martinez and the Suffolk County Child Care Commission Organize the “Kindergarten is Too Late: Learning Begins at Birth” Summit

Brentwood, NY – Suffolk County Legislator Monica R. Martinez, who serves as Chairperson of the Suffolk County Child Care Commission, will offer opening remarks at a May 12, County Summit “Kindergarten is Too Late: Learning Begins at Birth” at the Brentwood Campus of Suffolk County Community College.

The event, which is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. will feature George Askew, M.D., Deputy Commissioner of Health for the New York City Department of Health & Mental Health Hygiene as Keynote Speaker. As a national leader and pediatrician his remarks will focus on health, education and the socio-economic impact of investing in children. He will also offer ideas about advocating for children and families in the community.

“This is an extremely important and significant summit for our community, especially in light of recent events that have occurred,” said Legislator Martinez. “As an advocate for children and their rights, I believe there is invaluable information that can be shared and I encourage participation.”

Legislator Martinez said while registration is required, there is no conference fee and OCFS Credits will be provided.

Following opening remarks, attendees will view a video provided by The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, “Building Adult Capabilities to Improve Child Outcomes: A Theory of Change.” There will be a panel discussion and Q&A with Angela Zimmerman, Family LI@ Molloy College moderating. Panel members will include Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory and Legislators Kara Hahn and Leslie Kennedy, Educator, Dr. Bertha Richard, Child Care Provider Alicia Marks, and parent, Sally Belbawy.

There will be a 15 minute break followed by five Roundtable Discussions on Challenges and Opportunities for Policy & Action. Participants are encouraged to select one among the five to attend, which include: Family Engagement, Early Learning Settings, Public Education, Policy/Government, and Employer/Employee.

Lunch and closing remarks will be provided by Richard Koubek, Ph.D., Welfare to Work Commission, Moderator, and New York State Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre.

To register, please visit, <http://bit.ly/LearningBeginsAtBirth>.