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**EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Education & Labor 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 March 11, 2020.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey - Chairman  
Legislator Samuel Gonzalez - Vice Chair (excused)  
Legislator Susan A. Berland  
Legislator Kara Hahn - Deputy Presiding Officer (excused)  
Legislator Leslie Kennedy

**Also In Attendance:**

Legislator Robert Calarco - Presiding Officer  
Sarah Simpson - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature  
Jason Richberg - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
Samantha Sarube - Aide to Legislator Berland  
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Craig Freas - Budget Review Office  
Rosalie Drago - Commissioner of Labor  
Doug Sutherland - Comptroller's Office  
Ben Zwirn - Director of Legislative Affairs/SCCC  
All other interested parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

1 (The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.)  
2

3 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

4 Welcome, everybody, to the Education and Labor Committee. Please  
5 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Legislator Berland.  
6

7 (Pledge of Allegiance)  
8

9 Welcome, Mr. Clerk. Congratulations, by the way. I want to be the  
10 first one to officially congratulate you. I know it's not official  
11 yet, but --  
12

13 **MR. RICHBERG:**

14 Thank you very much.  
15

16 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

17 Okay. All right. Do we have any correspondence?  
18

19 **MR. RICHBERG:**

20 No, we do not.  
21

22 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

23 No cards and no correspondence. Is there anyone in the audience  
24 who would like to address the committee? Hearing none, we have one  
25 resolution.  
26

27 **IR 1228, Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal pass-through**  
28 **grant funds from the New York State Department of Labor through the**  
29 **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for the Unemployed**  
30 **Worker Training Program-Project School III. (Co. Exec.)**  
31

32 Commissioner, would you like to come up and please let us know a  
33 little bit? Okay. Motion to approve and second to put on the  
34 consent calendar. Commissioner, would you tell us a little bit  
35 about what this is?  
36

37 **COMMISSIONER DRAGO:**

38 Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to present. We  
39 received word that we are accepting the grants. It is for training  
40 86 of our customers for CNA, medical office admin and medical  
41 billing specialists; so these are for healthcare jobs. We had on  
42 Long Island over 80,000 healthcare jobs posted last year, so this  
43 is an in-demand occupation. The CNA participants as well as the  
44 office admin and medical billing folks will be attending classes at  
45 Eastern Suffolk, Western Suffolk BOCES, LICNA, and Hunter to get  
46 that training, so these are educational partners, and these are  
47 certificate programs. These are also career jobs, so if you enter  
48 at the CNA, which is sort of an entry level position, between \$15  
49 and \$20 an hour, once they get past that certification and start  
50 working, they can either take two paths. You could become a  
51 medical assistant or specialize in something like phlebotomy or EKG  
52 or you can move up to LPN, RN, or physician's assistant. So these  
53 are career-ladder jobs, and we pre-screen and recruit those  
54 candidates, send them to the educational partner, and then they  
55 actually work with Nassau Suffolk Nursing Association, which is  
56 where the healthcare facilities recruit from, and they do job

1 fairs, meet with the candidates, and interview and hire from there.  
2 So that's what the grant is for.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

5 Very good. Does anyone have any questions for the Commissioner?  
6 Okay. Very good. Thank you.

7  
8 I just want to make note that we have excused absences, Legislator  
9 Hahn and Legislator Gonzalez. Is there any other business to come  
10 before the committee? Oh, we need to -- I'm sorry. All in favor?  
11 Opposed? Abstentions? So moved. **Approved/Consent (VOTE:**  
12 **4-0-0-2, Excused: Hahn, Gonzalez)**

13  
14 And we have excused absences for Legislator Hahn and Gonzalez. Any  
15 other business to come before the committee? Hearing none, we  
16 stand adjourned.

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18 (The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.)  
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