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

A 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 April 7, 2022 via Zoom and in-person.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Leslie Kennedy, Chairperson  
Leg. Stephanie Bontempi, Vice Chair  
Leg. Bridget Fleming  
Leg. Tom Donnelly  
Leg. Dominick Thorne (via Zoom)  
Leg. Manuel Esteban

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

William Duffy, Counsel to the Legislature  
Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature  
Brett Robinson, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature  
Craig Freas, Budget Review Office  
Gay Vogel-Campisi, Aide to Leg. Kennedy  
Irene Donohue, Aide to Leg. Fleming  
Chris DeLuca, Aide to PO  
Ali Nazir, Aide to PO  
Jennifer Culp, Assistant to Commissioner Pigott  
Zachary Harding, County Executive's Office  
Cynthia Amato, SC Teen Pregnancy Advisory Board  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

1 THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:17 PM

2  
3 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

4 I call the meeting of the Health Committee to order and ask that  
5 everyone please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by  
6 Legislator Bontempi.

7  
8 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

9  
01:18PM 10 Clerk, could you please call the roll?

11  
12 (Roll call by Chief Deputy Clerk Robinson)

13  
14 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

15 Present.

16  
17 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

18 Present.

19  
20 **LEG. FLEMING:**

21 Present.

22  
23 **LEG. THORNE:**

24 Present by Zoom.

25  
26 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

27 Present.

28  
29 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

30 Here.

01:18PM 31  
32 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

33 Six.

34  
35 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

36 Thank you. Do we have any correspondence?

37  
38 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

01:18PM 39 All correspondence has been distributed accordingly, Madam  
40 Chairwoman.

41  
42 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

43 Thank you, sir. Public portion, do we have any speaker cards?

44  
45 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

46 We do not have any speaker cards.

47  
48 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

01:18PM 49 Okay. We have no Appointment Resolutions. Today we have a  
50 presentation by Cynthia Amato, who is the chairperson for Suffolk  
51 County Teen Pregnancy Advisory Board. Cynthia, do you want to come  
52 up and sit next to the Clerk?

53  
54 **PRESENTATION**

55 **MS. AMATO:**

56 Good afternoon.

1  
2 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

3 Good afternoon. Whenever you're ready.  
4

5 **MS. AMATO:**

6 I'm becoming too familiar with this seat. I was here on Tuesday.  
7

8 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

9 I know, I know.  
10

01:19PM 11 **MS. AMATO:**

12 Thank you for having me. Good afternoon, everybody.  
13

14 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

15 Thank you.  
16

17 **MS. AMATO:**

18 As was mentioned, I'm the Chairperson of the Teen Pregnancy  
19 Advisory Board; have been for a number of years. My predecessor at  
01:19PM 20 EOC SNAP ran the Task Force back in 2011 so I've been involved in  
21 this for a longtime. But just a brief overview of what the board  
22 does, it was established to provide ongoing support and assistance  
23 to Suffolk County's continuing effort to decrease the rate of  
24 teenage pregnancy. We promote educational outreach on teenage  
25 pregnancy and related issues. We advocate for increased access to  
26 family planning services for sexuality -- excuse me -- sexually  
27 active use. We recommend best practices to help young people  
28 particularly those in marginalized groups to avoid risky behaviors  
29 including those that put them at risk of pregnancy. And we provide  
01:20PM 30 support for pregnant and parenting teens.  
31

32 As you have before you is our 2021 annual report. I'll run through  
33 this and then I'll talk about our upcoming conference. So we did  
34 make a few minor changes to our resolution to broaden the -- a few  
35 of our membership appointments; just increasing the language based  
36 on some of the roles that shifted of current members so you'll see  
37 those listed. You'll see a list of members from 2021 all have  
38 stayed the same except for item "C". We do have a vacancy, which  
39 is the Suffolk County Law Enforcement Officer to be appointed by  
01:20PM 40 the County Legislature. We have reached out to a number of  
41 different offices and precincts to see if we can fill that slot for  
42 2022. But we have a pretty full board and we do have great staff  
43 support.  
44

45 We've had in the past, as you see listed from May 2014 to May of  
46 2021, we had Elizabeth Alexander from Legislator Spencer's office;  
47 then shifted to Legislator Anker's office. We had Dorothy Cavalier  
48 and Emily Murphy, who still support us. And we are, I think, in  
49 the transition to potentially have support from Legislator  
01:21PM 50 Kennedy's office as well, so thank you.  
51

52 You'll see listed are full board meetings. We usually meet every  
53 other month and as needed when we're planning our annual summit.  
54 And you'll see there as well May 6 we had a presentation of our  
55 2020 annual report to the Health Committee as well. We tried to  
56 bring in guest speakers to our meetings so that we can learn about

1 other support services for the youth throughout the County to our  
2 meetings so you'll see we did have Dr. Martine, who was one of our  
3 speakers at our conference and we did also have Legislator Anker.

4  
5 Our summit last year was navigating relationships, pregnancy and  
6 parenting during a pandemic. And we did that as a virtual  
7 conference. For our 25-plus years we've had in-person conferences  
8 and that was our first virtual conference but it ended up being  
9 very successful. We had 76 registrants and 61 people attend. And  
01:22PM 10 that is a combination of professionals and students. The students  
11 are either pregnant and/or parenting -- usually pregnant and  
12 they're parenting or someone who may need support for someone in  
13 their network.

14  
15 We had topics on health disparities. We had testimonies beating  
16 the odds from someone who was a teen parent. We had *healing from*  
17 *adversity* and we always give out resources. And we do have a  
18 resource guide that can be made available to you all of services  
19 available relating to this topic.

20  
21 Another piece that we tried to work on in 2021, which was  
22 successful, we wanted to broaden the website and we now have a spot  
23 on the County website where we can provide messaging on adolescent  
24 resources relating to pregnant and parenting teens and prevention  
25 education. And we also have our meetings posted as well and we've  
26 utilized that space and that platform to have our registration for  
27 our conference as well so it was very helpful.

28  
29 Our goals for 2022 we'd like to fill our vacant position. We want  
01:23PM 30 to identify guest speakers which we've already established a few to  
31 come to our meetings. We are in the midst of planning our annual  
32 summit which is scheduled for May 10th of this year, another  
33 virtual conference and we hope to be in person in 2023.

34  
35 Another goal prevention and empowerment youth organizations,  
36 encouraging that collaboration; review county legislation for  
37 support, research and promote existing resources for health and  
38 wellness; dissemination of resources on the county website so  
39 continually updating that platform; look into updated statistics  
01:24PM 40 and collaborate with state partners on issues like comprehensive  
41 sex ed or fatherhood initiatives, things that are pertinent to the  
42 population that we are looking to serve.

43  
44 Recommendations also listed, potentially a uniform policy and  
45 regulation around support services for pregnant and parenting teens  
46 and prevention; social media campaign in the county on issues of  
47 teen pregnancy and promotion of resources; providing literature and  
48 resource to different departments like medical providers, clergy,  
49 Suffolk Police Department, parents and guardians to promote  
01:25PM 50 education and empowerment; potentially increase funding for support  
51 services, prevention, education and empowerment for pregnant and/or  
52 parenting adolescents and at-risk youth; county support for  
53 comprehensive sex ed and increase public health equity and cultural  
54 competence.

55  
56 That was our 2021 report. And as mentioned, our 2022 conference is

1 on May 10th from four to six. It's a virtual conference and our  
2 theme this year is *tuning into yourself and your child*. And we're  
3 going to be focussing on education, prevention, support, networking  
4 and resources as we do annually. And that is my report. Any  
5 questions?

6  
7 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

8 Great job.

9  
10 **MS. AMATO:**

11 Thank you.

12  
13 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

14 Legislator Esteban.

15  
16 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

17 Hi, I'm Legislator Esteban. Thank you so much. First of all,  
18 welcome.

19  
20 **MS. AMATO:**

21 Thank you.

22  
23 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

24 And congratulations for, you know, running such a fine task force.  
25 You're so well prepared and -- Advisory Board rather. You know,  
26 I'd like you to know my district office is in -- is on Jericho  
27 Turnpike in Commack close to East Northport. And I'm working on  
28 being one of the first district office to have a lactation room so  
29 I'm looking forward to that coming to fruition. And I welcome you  
01:26PM 30 and your team to visit my district office on May 4th. We're having  
31 an open house meet and greet on May 4th from two to seven PM. And  
32 we'll also be having a breakfast that morning for leaders such as  
33 yourself. You can speak to my chief of staff.

34  
35 I very much would like to assist your advisory board in any way I  
36 can. My wife and I, we have seven children and, you know, we  
37 certainly, you know, would like to, you know, to help any young  
38 family or young lady who, you know, who decides to be a yes for  
01:27PM 39 life and provide any and all support imaginable, you know, to help  
40 such person.

41  
42 And, you know, my question is when your advisory board hears of,  
43 you know, young ladies who want to have a baby and are having to do  
44 it on their own, where do you refer them at this time? How are you  
45 finding those -- go with those referrals and, you know, how can we  
46 assist as a county? What gaps are there in all those referrals,  
47 you know? You can speak.

48  
49 **MS. AMATO:**

01:27PM 50 Well, many of our referrals do come from school district counselors  
51 or social workers. And we don't as an advisory board get those  
52 referrals directly, but as a provider we do either -- if we're able  
53 to on our caseload counsel that individual; see what supports they  
54 have in place; refer elsewhere if they need medical advice and  
55 other support services. There's the Suffolk County MICH program,  
56 the Maternal Infant Community Health collaborative that we -- I'll

1 speak from EOC of Suffolk, I direct our youth services there. We  
2 do collaborate with the Suffolk County MICH Program, Family Service  
3 League, Healthy Families, Sun River Health for family planning  
4 services. There's many different resources and avenues that we  
5 would refer based on the location of the individual as well and,  
6 again, what supports they currently they have and what they may  
7 need that would best suit their case individually.

8  
9 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

01:28PM 10 Do you find that -- are those programs meeting the needs of these  
11 young people?

12  
13 **MS. AMATO:**

14 Yes.

15  
16 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

17 They are. Okay, thank you.

18  
19 **MS. AMATO:**

20 Yes.

21  
22 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

23 That's great to hear.

24  
25 **MS. AMATO:**

26 But I will say since I was, you know, with EOC, I will say, I'm not  
27 trying to get into a funding discussion necessarily, but I've seen  
28 funding decrease significantly. And that's kind of because you see  
29 trends and statistics decrease. And that's because of the work and  
01:29PM 30 because of the prevention and the education that's going in  
31 throughout the County within school districts and everything. So  
32 the work that's being done is successful. So we hope that that --  
33 the funding does not decrease even more because of that. So, yes,  
34 teenage pregnancy rates have decreased over time, but there's still  
35 a need for that education and those supports if that makes sense.

36  
37 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

38 Is the County your only source of funding?

39  
40 **MS. AMATO:**

41 So, as an advisory board, we don't have -- there's no funding for  
42 that. But for other providers there's -- I can speak on EOC's  
43 position. We have county funds and foundation funds for the  
44 Maternal and Early Childhood Foundation, which is a statewide  
45 foundation. But even with them, you know, their funds have  
46 decreased overtime as well.

47  
48 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

49 I have a question.

01:29PM 50  
51 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

52 Legislator Bontempi.

53  
54 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

55 Thank you for being here, Miss Amato. I have a question. Your  
56 goals for 2022, it says here collaborate with state partners and

1 issues like comprehensive sex education, fatherhood initiatives,  
2 etcetera. Could you elaborate a little bit on that, please?

3  
4 **MS. AMATO:**

5 Sure. So I also am the chairperson of NYSCOAP New York State  
6 Council on Adolescent Pregnancy. And NYSCOAP has worked with Sex  
7 Ed Now and other organizations statewide to try to pass legislation  
8 for comprehensive sex ed K 12, age appropriate information so that  
9 the prevention education is there. Health education is there  
01:30PM 10 because health educators, the number of health educators statewide  
11 has decreased, you know, and there is a need for that information,  
12 you know, so that there's a standard. There's health standards.  
13 There should be health standards relating to sexuality education as  
14 well. So that's one avenue.

15  
16 The fatherhood initiative through -- so EOC, for example, is a  
17 community action agency and the New York State Community Action  
18 Agency, NYSCA, is working collaboratively with fatherhood  
01:31PM 19 initiatives to try to see what's happening statewide. Region 10 is  
20 Long Island. We're looking into what is happening in terms of  
21 fatherhood programs throughout the Island. Currently there's the  
22 retreat that has fatherhood programming but it's very limited, you  
23 know, they have a current waitlist of referrals for fathers who  
24 want to be mentored and gain education. You know, so there's a  
25 need for even fatherhood components throughout the County and Long  
26 Island. So just working to see where there are gaps and where  
27 there are needs with relation to these topics but more that we may  
28 not have explored as of yet.

29  
30 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

31 Thank you.

32  
33 **MS. AMATO:**

34 You're welcome.

35  
36 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

37 Legislator Thorne.

38  
39 **LEG. THORNE:**

01:32PM 40 Hi, good afternoon. I think it's afternoon. Can you hear me okay?

41  
42 **MS. AMATO:**

43 Yes, I can.

44  
45 **LEG. THORNE:**

46 Great. So, first off before I get into a few of my questions, it  
47 always amazed me there are a few of you in the county that have  
48 multiple hats. And I wanted from my district as well to say thank  
49 you. It's hard to hold down multiple spots and you folks do it  
01:32PM 50 well. Now obviously you know I'm going to have a kid from my  
51 district and, you know, feel free to reach out, send your  
52 literature out to me but, you know, let's make an appointment.

53  
54 **MS. AMATO:**

55 Yes.

1 **LEG. THORNE:**

2 We have a rather large district here that is in dire need of county  
3 services. It seemed as somehow zip codes, whatever the excuse is,  
4 whatever the reason is, I should say, we need to work together and  
5 I do have a large contingent of area that is in dire need of the  
6 services you provide.

7  
8 So I just want to put on record that, you know, we certainly invite  
9 you for a conversation and let's see how we can help the residents  
01:32PM 10 of the 7th District as well as the rest of the County. But I  
11 definitely wanted to say thank you even though you and even our  
12 Landbank folks, Sarah, and all those other folks, they have  
13 multiple hats and I appreciate your dedication to making people  
14 lives better and I just wanted to put that on the record, so.

15  
16 **MS. AMATO:**

17 Thank you.

18  
19 **LEG. THORNE:**

01:33PM 20 Thank you so much but I'll expect to hear from you soon.

21  
22 **MS. AMATO:**

23 Yes, you're on my list from Tuesday. I was out with a sick kid  
24 yesterday, so you're on my list to call.

25  
26 **LEG. THORNE:**

27 You know, I have a three-year-old a one-year-old home so I don't  
28 have as many as my colleague Legislator Esteban, and God bless his  
29 family, but I feel your pain, so.

01:33PM 30  
31 **MS. AMATO:**

32 Thank you.

33  
34 **LEG. THORNE:**

35 Give me a call and we'll meet up soon, right?

36  
37 **MS. AMATO:**

38 Yes.

39  
40 **LEG. THORNE:**

41 Thank you so much. I yield back, Madam Chair. Thank you.

42  
43 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

44 So, thank you, Cynthia. It's always a pleasure having you here.  
45 What you do is a great service.

46  
47 **MS. AMATO:**

48 Thank you.

49  
50 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

51 And the fact that the numbers are going down shows that the board  
52 has been of assistance. So we are happy and looking forward to  
53 working with you and your board.

54  
55 **MS. AMATO:**

56 Thank you.



1  
2 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
3 Thank you.

4  
5 **MS. AMATO:**  
6 Thank you very much for having me.

7  
8 **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**  
9

10 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
11 Any time you feel the need to speak about something going on, feel  
12 free.

13  
14 Okay. We have no Tabled Resolutions so we're onto **Introductory**  
15 **Resolutions. 1242, Accepting \$232,500 in 100% State Aid from the**  
16 **New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports New York**  
17 **State OASAS for expansion of jail support services. (Co. Exec.).**  
18 Do I have a motion?

19  
20 **LEG. THORNE:**  
21 Motion.

22  
23 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
24 Okay. Motion to approve and can we put that on the consent  
25 calendar?

26  
27 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
28 Cosponsor.

29  
30 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
31 Okay. Did we get a second?

32  
33 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**  
34 I can second it.

35  
36 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
37 That's it. We have a motion and a second. I'd like to cosponsor  
38 also. Anybody for this? I can't remember what I'm supposed to  
39 say. And do we have any pros? Any against?

01:35PM 40  
41 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
42 On the motion.

43  
44 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
45 Yes.

46  
47 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
48 Can somebody tell us, you know, what sort of services are going to  
49 be provided on this one? Is somebody available?

01:35PM 50  
51 **MS. CULP:**  
52 Sure, good afternoon. Jen Culp from Suffolk County Department of  
53 Health. Can you hear me okay?

54  
55 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
56 (Nodding head yes)

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**MS. CULP:**

So this funding is for the expansion of MAT or Medication Assisted Treatment in our correctional facilities. So this will help support the purchase of medications. This will help support pharmacy upgrades and various supplies.

**LEG. ESTEBAN:**

Thank you.

**LEG. THORNE:**

If I may on the motion?

**CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

Excuse me, Dominick?

**LEG. THORNE:**

If I may on the motion, I have a scratchy throat today, no, it's not COVID, tell me I have to stay in. Okay, Jennifer, you mentioned -- if I may call you -- is that okay, Ma'am?

**MS. CULP:**

Of course.

**LEG. THORNE:**

Great. You mention medications. Are we talking about medication for just general illness or are we talking about medication for drug therapy to replace addictions or what are we talking about?

**MS. CULP:**

Yes. Sorry, yes. So we're talking about MAT for opioid use disorder or OUD. So, you know, we're talking about Methadone, Suboxone or Buprenorphine, Vivitrol, other long acting.

**LEG. THORNE:**

So are we following that up after they are released from jail -- from Suffolk County Jail system? Is there someone following these folks up or "after you're out, we're not going to help you with your meds, and have a good day, goodbye. Go in peace."

**MS. CULP:**

No, absolutely. We always will have a discharge plan and a link to a referral in the community so that they -- our goal would be that upon release, they are going to continue their care or continue their treatment. So we work closely with our own staff and also we have a contracted agency that's been doing that work as well initially for mental health services in general and more recently for substance use disorder as well.

**LEG. THORNE:**

Outstanding, thank you, Ma'am.

**MS. CULP:**

You're welcome.

1 **LEG. THORNE:**  
2 I yield back, Madam Chair.

3  
4 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
5 Anyone else? Okay. All in favor? We have a motion and a second  
6 so all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

7  
8 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**  
9 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)

01:37PM 10  
11 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
12 1242 has been approved. Thank you. 1243, Amending the 2022  
13 Operating Budget to accept and appropriate \$845,190 in 100% State  
14 Aid from the New State Office of Addiction Services and supports  
15 New York State Office of OASAS for crisis stabilization center  
16 (services). (Co. Exec.).

17  
18 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
19 Motion and cosponsor.

01:38PM 20  
21 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
22 Okay, do we have a second? I'll second that.

23  
24 **LEG. THORNE:**  
25 Madam Chair?

26  
27 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
28 Dominick.

29  
30 **LEG. THORNE:**  
31 Yeah, that's fine. And a cosponsor as well. It's a good bill.

32  
33 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
34 And I will cosponsor also and we will place on the consent call.  
35 All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

36  
37 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**  
38 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)

39  
40 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
41 Okay, 1243 has passed. 1247, Accepting and appropriating 100%  
42 (Federal) Grant Funds from the National Environmental Health  
43 Association Food and Drug Administration in the amount of \$7,500  
44 for the Retail Flexible Funding Model Grant Program for the AFDO  
45 Annual Educational Conference administered by the Suffolk County  
46 Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health and to  
47 execute grant related agreements. (Co. Exec.). I'll make the  
48 motion on that. Do we have a second?

49  
50 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
51 I'll second.

52  
53 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
54 All in favor? All opposed? And --

55  
56

1 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

2 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)

3  
4 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

5 Six. Thank you. So 1247 passes. 1249, Accepting and  
6 appropriating 100% Federal Pass-Through Aid from the New York State  
7 Office of Addiction Services and Support New York State OASAS in  
8 the amount of \$194,634 for the Opioid Treatment Program Maintenance  
9 Project and to execute grant related agreements. (Co. Exec.). Do I  
01:39PM 10 have a motion? I'll make the motion. Do we have a second?

11  
12 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

13 Second. Cosponsor.

14  
15 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

16 Okay. I'll cosponsor also. And we will put this on the consent  
17 calendar. So it was seconded by Legislator Esteban. So, do we  
18 have anyone on the motion? Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Any  
19 abstentions? Okay.

01:40PM 20  
21 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

22 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)

23  
24 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

25 So 1249 has passed. 1291, Amending the 2021 Adopted Operating  
26 Budget to create the Opioid Fund 361 to allow for the segregation  
27 of 2021 revenue into the fund as directed by the County  
28 Legislature. (Co. Exec.).

29  
30 **LEG. THORNE:**

31 Motion.

32  
33 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

34 Motion by Dominick Thorne. Second?

35  
36 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

37 I'll second.

38  
39 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

01:40PM 40 Second by Legislator Bontempi.

41  
42 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

43 Leslie, I have a question on that, please?

44  
45 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

46 Certainly, Legislator Donnelly. Go ahead.

47  
48 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

49 Is BRO available?

01:41PM 50  
51 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

52 Yes.

53  
54 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

55 So just looking at the reso itself and the last Resolved Clause or  
56 the Third Resolved Clause, which says "unexpected appropriations

1 will create a fund balance which will remain in fund 361 in 2022."  
2 Where do we go at the end of this year? Part of the agreement that  
3 we had last year was that opioid funding would be strictly used for  
4 opioid services and related services. I just want to make sure  
5 that we're going to stay in tuned on that into 2023.

6  
7 **MR. FREAS:**

8 This resolution does not change that intent.

9  
10 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

11 Okay.

12  
13 **MR. FREAS:**

14 See that the Budget Director is listening but my understanding of  
15 the resolution is that we created fund 361 in the 2022 budget year.

16  
17 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

18 Okay.

19  
20 **MR. FREAS:**

21 It did not exist in the 2021 budget year. What this resolution is  
22 doing is creating it, is amending the '21 budget which hasn't  
23 closed yet. So that the funds that we received, that \$40 million  
24 that you see being accepted and appropriated will be appropriated  
25 into 2021 so the fund will start with the 2022 fund balance.

26  
27 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

28 Okay.

29  
30 **MR. FREAS:**

31 There was a fund balance but we hadn't -- we had already received  
32 -- so it's basically -- it's a way to create the fund with a  
33 balance -- with the balance of the funds we actually receive.  
34 There were two settlements we received and we had not -- we  
35 accepted them. We had to put them somewhere. We had nowhere to  
36 put them until this resolution. We had nowhere to put them in the  
37 County's financial system even though they were --

38  
39 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

40 So fund 361 will be with us for the foreseeable future?

41  
42 **MR. FREAS:**

43 Yes.

44  
45 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

46 Awesome. Great. Great work. Thank you. Thank you, Leslie.

47  
48 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

49 On the motion? On the motion? So could you please explain the  
50 opioid settlement funding we're receiving from the lawsuits to the  
51 drug companies? What are we doing? What's that money going to  
52 provide? Is it going to provide substance abuse counseling; new  
53 treatment centers? Because my thought is many people have  
54 insurance whether it's private insurance or Medicaid that pays for  
55 substance abuse treatment so what is this -- what are these funds  
56 going to be providing for people for treatment?

01:43PM

01:43PM

1  
2 **MR. FREAS:**

3 There are a number of -- and I would refer to the Health Department  
4 to go into a little more detail but the fund -- we passed a couple  
5 laws last year that restrict what the funds can be used for, which  
6 would include purchase of medicated -- assisted treatment  
7 medications. There's actually a fairly large -- fairly large but  
8 yet restricted group of categories of things we can spend it on.  
9 For example, we can spend it on investigations in the Medical  
01:44PM 10 Examiner's Office. We can spend it, like I said, on medication  
11 assisted treatment programs for people who you are uninsured.  
12 People who are coming -- for example, people coming out of a  
13 correctional facility do not typically have health insurance at  
14 least initially. So we would like them to not purchase their  
15 opioids on the street. We would like them to continue receive the  
16 medication assisted treatment. These funds could provide that.

17  
18 If you look at our write-up from the 2022 operating budget, it can  
19 give you a little more detail; or explain how the fund works and  
01:45PM 20 some of the restrictions. Off the top of my head I don't remember  
21 the resolution numbers that restricted the funds, but that's what  
22 we're doing with it. It's not just treatment for people who are  
23 insured. It's got a fairly large (inaudible). We're also  
24 restricted by state laws to what we can do with it.

25  
26 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

27 Are you completed?

28  
29 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

01:45PM 30 Yes.

31  
32 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

33 Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor?

34  
35 **LEG. THORNE:**

36 Madam Chair?

37  
38 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

01:46PM 39 Oh, I see your hand now, Dominick. Legislator Thorne, go ahead.

40  
41 **LEG. THORNE:**

42 Thank you because I just learned how to do that so I appreciate you  
43 recognizing it. Madam Chair, it seems to be helpful that if every  
44 member of the Health Committee gets exactly what category these  
45 could be used on, and furthermore all the Legislators, and maybe  
46 what it's been used on in the last fiscal year or during the year.  
47 You know, we need to know what resources are available for our  
48 districts. And I would love to have Department of Health or  
01:46PM 49 whoever has to do it to send us all a note on what categories it  
50 can be used on what are the restrictions. So some of us new guys  
51 or newbies, as we're affectionately called, can probably bring good  
52 services or great services into the district in which we serve. So  
53 maybe we can have that done through the Chair if you don't mind.

54  
55 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

56 We can definitely have that done. That's an excellent thought.

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**MR. HARDING:**  
Miss Chairwoman? Chairwoman Kennedy, I'm sorry. It's Zach from the County Exec's office, if I could.

**CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
Hi, Zach.

**MR. HARDING:**  
Hello.

**CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
We can't see you.

**MR. HARDING:**  
I know, I'm sorry, my video is not working. But I did just want to follow up on Legislator Thorne's inquiry and a bit on Legislator Esteban's as well. There were, as BRO mentioned, there were some resolutions that Legislator Hahn sponsored last year that did restrict the funds to certain, you know, opioid-related treatments and other programs such as that. I just want to clarify on the record that those funds have not been, you know, spent on anything yet.

01:47PM

**CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
Right.

**MR. HARDING:**  
There was a working group that put together thoughts on that and we do have a report that is still in progress. So I just want to clarify on the record that this money has not been used on anything yet; will be limited in its capacity as BRO stated, not only by the resolutions but also by state limitations. And we will certainly have things come before this body to approve before that money is set on any programs or other services. So I just wanted to clarify that as well.

01:47PM

**CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
Thank you, Zach. There were also some limitations in the litigation itself.

01:47PM

**MR. HARDING:**  
Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
That we have to deal with.

**LEG. DONNELLY:**  
Thank you, Zach.

01:48PM

**CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**  
We can definitely get that done. So did we vote on that? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1291 --

**CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**  
Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)

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**CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

Thank you. Is approved. We have no executive session and we have completed all business so we are adjourned. Thank you.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:47 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**



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