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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 May 12, 2022 via Zoom and in-person.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Leslie Kennedy, Chairperson
Leg. Stephanie Bontempi, Vice Chair
Leg. Bridget Fleming
Leg. Tom Donnelly (via Zoom)
Leg. Dominick Thorne
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
Greg Atherton, Aide to Leg. Bontempi
Irene Donohue, Aide to Leg. Fleming
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey
Jennifer Culp, Assistant to Commissioner Pigott
Ken Zegel, Water Quality/Health Services
Jason Hime, Public Health
Greg Fischer, public portion
Sal DeAngelo, public portion
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:01 PM

CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:

Good afternoon and welcome to the Health Committee. Please stand and join us for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Thorne.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Just a moment of silence, please, for the people fighting in the Ukraine, for our public servants, for our veterans and for our first responders.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Thank you. Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, can you call the roll?

(Roll call by Chief Deputy Clerk Robinson)

CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:

Present.

LEG. BONTEMPI:

Present.

LEG. FLEMING:

Here.

LEG. THORNE:

Present.

LEG. ESTEBAN:

Present.

LEG. DONNELLY:

Present via Zoom.

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:

Six.

CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do we have any correspondence?

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:

All correspondence has been distributed accordingly, Madam Chairwoman.

PUBLIC PORTION

CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:

Thank you. So we'll proceed on to the public portion. It appears that I have two speaker cards, the first one being Mr. Sal DeAngelo. Thank you, Sal. Come on up. You have three minutes.

SAL DeANGELO:

This presentation's about a rebate program that will allow New York State residents the ability to purchase lawn equipment at a 70

1 percent rebate of the purchase price. This Senate bill, sponsored
2 by Legislator Krueger, will establish a lawn equipment rebate
3 program that will reimburse purchasers of battery operated lawn
4 equipment and 70 percent of the purchase price, reimburse 70
5 percent of that purchase price, and will allow 100 percent
6 reimbursement for backup batteries. This applies to residential
7 and commercial lawnmowers, edge trimmers, chainsaws, leaf blowers
8 and other equipment. This bill is with the Governor currently and
9 is about to be signed. It's expected to be signed.

10
11 This bill gives the Township of Huntington the opportunity to amend
12 the code to fully transition to battery operated lawn equipment and
13 join the many cities and states that have enacted laws to
14 transition to a more carbon free, healthier and quieter lifestyle
15 for our citizens. If this law is signed by the Governor, this is
16 an opportunity to amend the code and completely eliminate the use
17 of gas powered lawn equipment, and I would suggest by the year 2025
18 or 2026, to give people time to transition.

19
20 The rebate program is a game changer. It will allow the Town and
21 the County justification for the total transition. We're all aware
22 of the need to transfer to a cleaner source of energy, to reduce
23 noise, improve the health of the operator of the equipment and also
24 the health of the general public. So this is truly a grand
25 opportunity and I would urge you to please consider that for the
26 County. If this rebate program goes through there should be no
27 reason that Suffolk County can't be at the vanguard of moving along
28 with many other cities and states that are taking this initiative.
29 I think it's a grand program, grand opportunity. Thank you.

30
31 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

32 Thank you, Mr. DeAngelo. Does anyone have any questions? No?
33 Okay, I have a question. Do you have a bill number?

34
35 **SAL DeANGELO:**

36 Yes. The bill number is 57453A sponsored by Legislator Krueger.

37
38 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

39 Right. And is there a Senate bill that goes with this?

40
41 **SAL DeANGELO:**

42 I think it's gone through the House, the Assembly, rather, and the
43 Senate and it's with the Governor right now.

44
45 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

46 Okay.

47
48 **CLERK TASSONE:**

49 Senator Krueger I think is who he is referring to from Manhattan.

50
51 **SAL DeANGELO:**

52 Yes, Senator Krueger.

53
54 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

55 Yes, very good. Thank you, Mr. DeAngelo. Our next speaker is Greg
56 Fischer.

1
2 **GREG FISCHER:**

3 Hi. Good afternoon. This is to request local legislation on
4 banning Remdesivir to be -- so it's not administered to any
5 patients in Suffolk County. I think I've given fliers to every
6 person around the shoe. If I haven't, I'll give another copy and
7 I'll provide a copy for the Clerk.

8
9 Remdesivir is right now the only emergency use protocol for people
10 with COVID. However, all the studies say it's deadly. They say it
11 causes more fatalities than it stops. There's no study since the
12 original manufacturer study that says it does any good at all. And
13 the extreme danger of it is it delays other treatments that could
14 be beneficial.

15
16 What I did pass out, this approximately is 20 pages of slideshow
17 from a Dr. Paul Merrick, highlights a bunch of studies. It shows
18 how they all line up in the fatality side of the equation. It does
19 not save any lives. It extends hospital stays also.

20
21 Now, this impacts the County in terms of Medicaid and it makes the
22 total hospital bill higher with the extended hospital stays. And
23 Dr. Merrick is quick to point out that -- that one of the things
24 incentivizing this is not just the three to \$5,000 per
25 administration, administered one to five times, but at the end of
26 this extended hospital stay where the bills would possibly go
27 higher than a normal \$50,000 for a hospital stay, to maybe a
28 million dollars after extended stay and all kinds of therapy
29 thereafter to rehabilitate if they survive at all, that they're
30 getting a spiff. They're getting a bonus for having participated.
31 The hospital is getting a bonus for having participated in this
32 Remdesivir trial under the emergency use. They will get 20% of the
33 entire hospital bill, 20 percent of the entire hospital bill thrown
34 in for using a deadly, toxic drug that doesn't work. It's really
35 bizarre.

36
37 There are many other therapies that actually cost in the low
38 thousands that can be done on an outpatient basis that will save
39 lives, and we're not even talking about them because they're in
40 part being obscured by this deadly, deadly toxic drug. It's well
41 associated with long COVID.

42
43 It also skews all our County statistics, because they're not dying
44 of COVID. The ones that actually proceed to renal failure or lack
45 of other care, they're dying of malpractice. They're dying of
46 malpractice. This is malpractice to administer a toxic, deadly
47 drug. So now our statistics throw us into a panic about COVID.
48 It's not the real cause of death but it's not being recorded that
49 way. So I'm really calling upon an investigation, some committee
50 to discuss it. I'm glad to bring in doctors from all over the
51 world. They put lots of doctors on video ever since the beginning
52 of 2020, of them putting doctors on video from all over the world,
53 and they can certainly show up on Zoom no different than Mr.
54 Donnelly has been here today on Zoom, so we can have a thorough
55 hearing and save lives and save incredible amounts of money for the
56 County.

1
2 I appreciate your time and I'm available to be contacted at any
3 time for that further inquiry. This is really, without question,
4 harmful. There's no question. So any questions now? I'm glad to
5 answer questions. Thank you very much for your time.
6

7 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

8 Thank you, sir. Is there anybody else who would like to speak at
9 the Public Portion? Okay. Seeing none, we'll move on. We have no
10 Appointment Resolutions, no presentations, no Tabled Resolutions.
11 So we'll move on to the Introductory Resolutions.
12

13 **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

14
15 **1322, Amending the 2022 Operating Budget to accept and appropriate**
16 **\$138,750 in additional 100% State Aid from the New York State**
17 **Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) to the Association for Mental**
18 **Health and Wellness for the Purpose of continuing a pilot program**
19 **in Suffolk County to assist veterans. (Co-Exec.). I'll make a**
20 **motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.**
21

22 **LEG. THORNE:**

23 Second the motion and cosponsor.
24

25 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

26 Thank you.
27

28 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

29 Esteban, cosponsor.
30

31 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

32 Okay, good. All those in favor?
33

34 **LEG. FLEMING:**

35 On the motion, Madam Chair.
36

37 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

38 Yes.
39

40 **LEG. FLEMING:**

41 Is there someone from the department who can answer questions about
42 this?
43

44 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

45 Jennifer.
46

47 **MS. CULP:**

48 Hi, good afternoon, everyone.
49

50 **LEG. FLEMING:**

51 May I put a couple of questions, Leslie?
52

53 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

54 Go ahead.
55
56

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 Thank you. Good afternoon, Jennifer. Just wondering, the title of
3 this resolution says that it's continuing a pilot program, but it
4 looks like the funding is limited to spring of '22 through next
5 year. Is there -- is this following up on funding previous or --

6
7 **MS. CULP:**

8 Yes, correct.

9
10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 Okay. Can you just give us some information on the program?

12
13 **MS. CULP:**

14 Sure. So this is a program we had rolled out probably two or three
15 years ago, really focusing on jail diversion. This program is
16 twofold. One aspect of it supports staff at Family Service
17 League's 24/7 DASH Crisis Center, and these individuals will work
18 closely with individuals in the community who may be having a
19 mental health crisis, a behavioral health emergency, and they work
20 closely with police and other first responders to decide if perhaps
21 we can bring this individual to the DASH Center or to another level
22 of care rather than arrest them and have them end up in jail, which
23 is why it's jail diversion.

24
25 And then the second part of this funding supports CIT or crisis
26 intervention training for our first responders so that they have
27 the tools to engage and to educate and to de-escalate situations
28 where, you know, perhaps there's not a real safety concern, it's
29 more of you recognizing that someone sort of is in crisis and how
30 to get them the tools to communicate and then also work with those
31 partners to keep them out of the jail system and hopefully into
32 treatment and support.

33
34 **LEG. FLEMING:**

35 So -- but is this limited to veterans?

36
37 **MS. CULP:**

38 Did I just talk about the wrong reso? I did. I'm sorry. Yes, I'm
39 sorry. I was talking --

40
41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 It sounds like a great program.

43
44 **MS. CULP:**

45 Thanks. That's the Jail Diversion Program. We'll get to that.
46 This is -- yes. This is a continuation of funding -- I'm so sorry.

47
48 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

49 It's all right.

50
51 **MS. CULP:**

52 This is State funding that came down to the Association for Mental
53 Health and Wellness. This assists veterans and their families. It
54 does assist veterans families as well who are suffering from PTSD
55 and other related combat stress disorders.

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 Does -- and so it's a continuation of a program that's already in
3 place?

4
5 **MS. CULP:**

6 Correct. It's additional funding that was given to the program to
7 expand.

8
9 **LEG. FLEMING:**

10 Is there any reporting on that program to date, any sort of data?

11
12 **MS. CULP:**

13 Sure.

14
15 **LEG. FLEMING:**

16 One of the main questions I have is what -- what's the interplay
17 with the Joseph Dwyer Program, which we know is extremely
18 successful. And, you know, this program that we're being asked to
19 authorize the funding for talks about peer to peer support, which
20 seems to be so critically important in the area of veterans
21 services. So just wondering, is there any kind of connection? And
22 I think it is so interesting and important for us, not so much
23 interesting, but important for us to stay on top of PTSD related
24 mental health issues for the folks who have served us, particularly
25 in combat, but even in any kind of conflict situation. Is there
26 reporting on it so that we can be aware of what the need is and how
27 it's being addressed? So those are really two questions, interplay
28 with Dwyer and is there data.

29
30 **MS. CULP:**

31 Data related to these programs?

32
33 **LEG. FLEMING:**

34 Well, to whatever it is that we are being asked to continue here.
35 It's the purpose of continuing a pilot program, it's 138,754, 22 --
36 spring '22 into the end of next calendar year. So just wondering,
37 it says continuing a pilot program, is there something that
38 happened prior to spring of '22, and if so, is there data for that.

39
40 **MS. CULP:**

41 Yes, there would be data. We always have what we call KPIs, key
42 performance indicators. We review units of service for all of our
43 contracted agencies so I can certainly work with the division to
44 send you over a summary.

45
46 **LEG. FLEMING:**

47 It's just interesting -- I think it would be good to keep track of
48 if this is not working in combination with the Joseph Dwyer Peer to
49 Peer Network, you know, how is it impacting and are we keeping a
50 good track of PTSD related mental health concerns in our veteran
51 population if it's being treated in, you know, diverse programs.
52 Does that make sense?

53
54 **MS. CULP:**

55 Yes.

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 So if maybe -- I certainly would support this. I mean, we need as
3 many resources as we can. I think you'd probably agree with that,
4 right?

5
6 **MS. CULP:**

7 Absolutely.

8
9 **LEG. FLEMING:**

10 So happy to support it, but I do think it would be important for us
11 to have an understanding of those two questions.

12
13 **MS. CULP:**

14 Yeah, it may be the same program so I'm going to confirm that and
15 get back to you.

16
17 **LEG. FLEMING:**

18 Yeah, I didn't recognize the name Mental Health Association. Is
19 that maybe a name for grant funding that Dwyer --

20
21 **MS. CULP:**

22 It's an organization. The Association, yeah, for Mental Health and
23 Wellness.

24
25 **LEG. FLEMING:**

26 So it's possible that Dwyer -- the Dwyer Program is working through
27 them for this funding?

28
29 **MS. CULP:**

30 Yes. It may be one in the same, but I just want to confirm that.

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 I mean, this is going on to the Consent Calendar so I think it's
34 very important that we take the money and continue to build our
35 resources in this important area, but if you wouldn't mind before
36 Tuesday just getting back to me on those two issues.

37
38 **MS. CULP:**

39 Absolutely. No problem.

40
41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

43
44 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

45 Anyone else on the motion? No? Okay. So we have a motion to
46 approve and place on the Consent Calendar. All those in favor?
47 Opposed? Abstain? Thank you.

48
49 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

50 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/CONSENT CALENDAR)

51
52 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

53 1322 is approved and placed on the Consent Calendar. 1323,
54 **Requesting Legislative approval of a contract award for Long-Term**
55 **Monitoring Plan and Adaptive Management Plan Consulting Services**
56 **for the Department of Health Services. (Co-Exec.). Do we have a**

1 motion?

2

3 **LEG. FLEMING:**

4 Motion.

5

6 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

7 Motion.

8

9 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

10 Okay, we got a motion from Bridget and a second from Legislator
11 Donnelly.

12

13 **LEG. THORNE:**

14 On the motion.

15

16 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

17 On the motion, go ahead.

18

19 **LEG. THORNE:**

20 So can we -- I guess, Ken, you're here to answer for the Department
21 of Health in reference to this?

22

23 **MR. ZEGEL:**

24 That's correct.

25

26 **LEG. THORNE:**

27 So can you explain what this is actually going to be used for,
28 give me a little more insight on this?

29

30 **MR. ZEGEL:**

31 Sure, I'd be happy to. Yup, Ken Zegel, Suffolk County Department
32 of Health Services. So this is a follow-up to the recently
33 published Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan. I think everybody's
34 probably well aware that the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan was
35 released in 2020 and really sets forth our roadmap on how we
36 upgrade our -- recommended roadmap on how we upgrade the 380,000
37 on-site sanitary systems from cesspool and the conventional systems
38 to wastewater management methods that actually treat for nitrogen.
39 A primary recommendation in the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan was
40 okay, well, you have a roadmap now. How do you make sure that you
41 get the data and the information you need to ensure that your
42 roadmap is being successful once it's implemented and also to
43 provide you the information that's needed to evaluate your
44 recommendations in the SWD, so the SWP itself, the recommended
45 implementation plan, was over a 30 to 45 year period. So we want
46 to set structure that gives us the data and the information that we
47 need to evaluation the findings of the SWP, is there new data, is
48 there new information, should that data and information be used to
49 revise the policy recommendations in the SWP. So this is really
50 going to set forth a structure to collect that data and, you know,
51 establish those evaluations.

52

53 This particular project is 100 percent grant funded through New
54 York State funding under the Septic Cesspool Upgrade Program Grant
55 Fund that actually funds a lot of the work that we're doing with
56 the innovative alternative treatment systems under the auspices of

1 the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan.

2
3 And so, you know, ultimately this is going to provide us the data
4 to inform the projects at the SWP. It's also going to provide an
5 essential recording mechanism for the data collected throughout the
6 County and from all the various water quality programs throughout
7 Suffolk County.

8
9 One of the things that we wanted to do is there are probably a
10 dozen different monitoring programs between the County's efforts,
11 USDS, the Water Authority, the different estuary programs, so this
12 is also going to help us harness and provide essential platforms to
13 report that data in an efficient manner so that everybody can use
14 this information and also create recommendations for their local
15 water quality issues.

16
17 And then, again, ultimately, the second piece of this, there's a
18 long-term monitoring piece to this, too, but then there's also what
19 we call an adaptive management plan piece. And the adaptive
20 management plan piece is really the piece that's going to set forth
21 the structure for establishing a committee that takes the data at
22 set review periods, reviews that data, is there new information,
23 and once we get that new information, how are we going to use that
24 information to optimize the implementation of the Subwatersheds
25 Wastewater Plan.

26
27 **LEG. THORNE:**

28 Somebody did their homework today, huh, Ken? Thank you so much for
29 that.

30
31 **MR. ZEGEL:**

32 You're welcome.

33
34 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

35 Anyone else on this bill? Okay. So we have a motion and a second.
36 All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1323 is --

37
38 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

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

40
41 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

42 1323 is approved. We will move on to 1327, **Accepting 100% State**
43 **grant funds from New York State Department of Health in the amount**
44 **of \$227,042 and appropriating \$108,777.90 for the Emergency Medical**
45 **Services Program Agency ("EMSPA") administered by the Suffolk**
46 **County Department of Health Services, Division of Emergency Medical**
47 **Services and to execute grant related agreements. (Co-Exec.). Do**
48 **we have a motion?**

49
50 **LEG. THORNE:**

51 Motion.

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

54 Motion by Legislator Thorne; second by Legislator Fleming. Anyone
55 on the motion?

1 **LEG. THORNE:**
2 On the motion.

3
4 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**
5 Okay, Legislator Thorne.

6
7 **LEG. THORNE:**
8 Do we have EMS on the Zoom?

9
10 **MS. CULP:**
11 I'm here for this resolution, Legislator Thorne.

12
13 **LEG. THORNE:**
14 Okay, great. Thank you so much. So do we know exactly, you know,
15 one of my concerns is a lack of rapid training of EMTs here in the
16 County. We had a couple of years of no classes and now we have a
17 shortage as far as I'm concerned. Is any portion of this going to
18 be used for training our emergency medical personnel in the field?

19
20 **MS. CULP:**
21 So this is ongoing funding we receive annually from the State and
22 it does support our staff in the EMS office to provide oversight
23 and, you know, coordinate activities amongst our EMS system and our
24 regional EMS Council. So it does support what we do in the
25 educational sense, the clinical sense, policy and procedurals.
26 This is the ongoing funding we receive annually.

27
28 **LEG. THORNE:**
29 I would not say no to EMS funding coming to the County, but I am
30 concerned. I don't know if I got an answer and I'm not trying to
31 be evasive with you, but are we going to be starting EMT classes,
32 preferably rapid EMT classes in this County as a result of this
33 grant money?

34
35 **MS. CULP:**
36 This grant money supports our annual operations, so if that, you
37 know, the rapid testing for training, you know, is part of the
38 operations that we provide annually, then it would support it, but
39 these funds don't go directly to that. This supports the staff to
40 do all of their activities annually. I can certainly check in
41 about the training schedule and get back to you on, you know,
42 what's coming up and what we're hearing from the community.

43
44 **LEG. THORNE:**
45 Outstanding. And we do have an outstanding EMS staff out in
46 Suffolk County.

47
48 **MS. CULP:**
49 We do.

50
51 **LEG. THORNE:**
52 I know many of them for 20, 30 years. So thank you so much for
53 your answer.

54
55 **MS. CULP:**
56 Yup.

1
2 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

3 Anyone else on the bill? No? Okay. So we have a motion to
4 approve and place on the Consent Calendar. All those in favor?
5 Opposed? Abstentions? 1327 is approved and placed on --

6
7 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

8 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/CONSENT CALENDAR)

9
10 **LEG. THORNE:**

11 1327, just add me as a cosponsor, please.

12
13 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

14 So it's placed on the Consent Calendar. 1328, Accepting and
15 appropriating 100% Federal pass-through grant funds from the United
16 Way of Long Island in the amount of \$21,448 for the Ryan White Part
17 A Medical Case Management ("MCM") program administered by the
18 Suffolk County Department of Health Services and to execute grant
19 related agreements. (Co. Exec.). Does anyone want to make a
20 motion?

21
22 **LEG. THORNE:**

23 Motion.

24
25 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

26 I'll second.

27
28 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

29 Okay. We have a motion and a second. Anyone like to speak on the
30 motion? No? Okay. All those in favor? Opposed? Okay, so 1328
31 is approved.

32
33 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

34 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/CONSENT CALENDAR)

35
36 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

37 And placed on the Consent Calendar. 1329, Accepting and
38 appropriating 100% State grant funds from the New York State
39 Department of Health in the amount of \$187,597 for the Drinking
40 Water Enhancement Program administered by the Suffolk County
41 Department of Health Services, Division of Environmental Quality
42 and to execute grant related agreements. (Co. Exec.).

43
44 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

45 I'll make a motion.

46
47 **LEG. THORNE:**

48 Second.

49
50 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

51 Okay, and to place on the Consent Calendar.

52
53 **LEG. FLEMING:**

54 On the motion.

1 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

2 Yes, Legislator Fleming.

3
4 **LEG. FLEMING:**

5 Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't know if this is an Environment
6 Division -- there's Jason. Hi, Jason. How are you?

7
8 **MR. HIME:**

9 Hey, Legislator Fleming. How are you?

10
11 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12 Good. Thank you for your continuing good work and protecting our
13 drinking water supply. Could you explain what this program is?

14
15 **MR. HIME:**

16 Gladly.

17
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**

19 The funding for 1329, 187,597 for the Drinking Water Enhancement
20 Program.

21
22 **MR. HIME:**

23 Absolutely. Yeah, this is a New York State Department of Health
24 grant. It's ongoing, it's reoccurring. This is the same amount
25 that we accepted last year from them. What this does is it really
26 increases the local Health Department's ability to provide
27 oversight and implementation of the public water supply enforcement
28 regulatory programs. We use this money to pay for about four of
29 our staff salaries, including three Public Health Sanitarians and
30 one Public Health Engineering title. With the staff it enables us
31 to go out and do about 500 public water supply inspections and
32 samples every year. We do 1200 surveillance samples of the public
33 water supply systems operating throughout the County, 600 public
34 water supply distribution system samples. We look at over 51 -- I
35 think it's around 50 public water supply operating reports every
36 month. We also conduct reviews of their annual water quality
37 reports, which should be going out to customers by the end of this
38 month.

39
40 **LEG. FLEMING:**

41 I'm sorry. Whose reports, the Suffolk County Water Authority?

42
43 **MR. HIME:**

44 Yeah, the Suffolk County Water Authority and all of the other major
45 public water suppliers that are required under the Federal and
46 State regulation to notify their customers what was in the water
47 and if they had any violations during the year. And those reports
48 are going out sometime between the beginning of the year and the
49 end of this month.

50
51 **LEG. FLEMING:**

52 But this -- so this funding allows staff to review the Water
53 Authority's reports but it also allows monitoring, separate
54 monitoring by the staff itself?

1 **MR. HIME:**
2 Absolutely.

3
4 **LEG. FLEMING:**
5 Okay. And so, for instance, the Speonk Solvent Plume, which is
6 still the subject of a monitoring program, is something that will
7 be supported by this effort -- by this funding?

8
9 **MR. HIME:**
10 Yeah, the private well sampling program is actually part of this
11 Drinking Water Enhancement Grant so that enables our staff to go
12 out and collect and conduct those private well surveys and the door
13 to door outreach, mailing letters to homeowners, offering free
14 sampling in our private well surveys, and then following up with
15 them to try to encourage public water connection, coordination with
16 State agencies for mitigating measures and alternative water
17 supplies.

18
19 **LEG. FLEMING:**
20 Great. And where are we on testing for perfluorinated compounds
21 for the forever chemicals? We're still unable to do it at our own
22 lab and have to ship it out?

23
24 **MR. HIME:**
25 Yeah, we have a Quarter Percent Sales Tax Program award, we have
26 two awards that's enabled us to contract out for the services in
27 the interim while we develop the capability in-house. We have a
28 capital project that was approved to purchase the equipment. We're
29 currently seeking to hire a chemist to be able to get that method
30 up and running, and the goal is by the end of this year.

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**
33 So is there -- are you seeking a chemist now? Is there an
34 employment ad out on the street for that?

35
36 **MR. HIME:**
37 I believe so. Jennifer is shaking her head so, yes, I believe so.

38
39 **LEG. FLEMING:**
40 Okay. Well, that's terrific news because we have seen delays based
41 on the fact that we had to have outside labs do the testing for
42 these forever chemicals. And, I mean, the work that's been done at
43 the Health Department is extraordinary and we've connected probably
44 hundreds of homes at this point to public water and getting them
45 away from those dangerous toxins. So to the extent that we can
46 keep our foot on the gas there I would appreciate it. I was hoping
47 that this might help, but I think this continues the ongoing work
48 of the monitoring program.

49
50 **MR. HIME:**
51 Yes.

52
53 **LEG. FLEMING:**
54 Okay. Thank you. If you could list me as a cosponsor, please.
55 Thank you very much.

56

1 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

2 Thank you, Legislator Fleming.

3
4 **MR. HIME:**

5 Thank you.

6
7 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

8 Anyone else? So we have a motion to approve and place on the
9 Consent Calendar. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

10
11 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

12 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/CONSENT CALENDAR)

13
14 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

15 So 1329 has been approved and placed on the Consent Calendar. On
16 to 1330, **Accepting 100% Federal pass-through grant funds from the**
17 **New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (NYS**
18 **OASAS) in the amount of \$94,500 for the Medication Delivery Support**
19 **Program administered by the Suffolk County Department of Health**
20 **Services, Division of Mental Hygiene and to execute grant related**
21 **agreements. (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion and to place also on**
22 **the Consent Calendar.**

23
24 **LEG. THORNE:**

25 Second.

26
27 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

28 Cosponsor.

29
30 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

31 Okay. Does anyone want to speak on this? Okay. All those in
32 favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

33
34 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

35 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/CONSENT CALENDAR)

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

38 Okay, 1330 has been approved and placed on the Consent Calendar.
39 **1331, Accepting 100% Federal pass-through grant funds from the New**
40 **York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (NYS OASAS) in**
41 **the amount of \$163,807 for the Workforce Development Program**
42 **administered by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services,**
43 **Division of Mental Hygiene and to execute grant related agreements.**
44 **(Co. Exec.).**

45
46 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

47 Motion and cosponsor.

48
49 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

50 Motion and cosponsor.

51
52 **LEG. THORNE:**

53 Second. Cosponsor.

54
55 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

56 Okay. Is there anyone who would like to speak on this? All right,

1 we have a motion, a second and we will be placing it on the Consent
2 Calendar. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

3
4 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**
5 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/CONSENT CALENDAR)

6
7 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**
8 1331 has been approved and placed on the Consent Calendar. 1332,
9 **Amending the 2022 Adopted Operating Budget to accept and**
10 **appropriate \$500,000 in 100% Federal pass-through Aid from the New**
11 **York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) for the continuation**
12 **of a Jail Diversion program in Suffolk County. (Co. Exec.).**
13 Anyone?

14
15 **LEG. FLEMING:**
16 Motion to approve and we heard all about it.

17
18 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**
19 And place on the Consent Calendar. Do we have a second? I will
20 second that. Anyone on the motion? No? Okay.

21
22 **LEG. FLEMING:**
23 Only to say that it's a great program and thank you, Jen, for being
24 here and describing it. And certainly it's been a successful
25 program and very important, so thank you.

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

29
30 **LEG. DONNELLY:**
31 Leslie, quick question. It's Tom Donnelly via Zoom.

32
33 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**
34 Hi, Tom.

35
36 **LEG. DONNELLY:**
37 Hey, Jen. Good afternoon. How are you?

38
39 **MS. CULP:**
40 I'm fine, Legislator.

41
42 **LEG. DONNELLY:**
43 I don't know that you can give me the exact number. How many --
44 where are we at in terms of numbers with uniformed personnel
45 trained in the crisis intervention? Do you know?

46
47 **MS. CULP:**
48 I don't, but I can easily get those.

49
50 **LEG. DONNELLY:**
51 Yeah, just shoot me an e-mail. I'm just kind of curious. I know
52 that it's been an ongoing program so I just was kind of wondering.

53
54 **MS. CULP:**
55 Yes.

1 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

2 Are we doing another batch with this -- is some of this funding
3 going to be included with doing another batch of officers?
4

5 **MS. CULP:**

6 Yes. We've been doing our Suffolk County PD, but we've also been
7 working with the town and village PDs and the Sheriff's Office as
8 well. You know, COVID obviously slowed us down a little bit
9 because of the, you know, restrictions around in-person training,
10 but it's certainly picking back up. So I'll get you some of those
11 updated numbers.
12

13 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

14 Very good. Thank you so much for that. And then just one other
15 quick question. CPEP at Stony Brook, like what is the recurring
16 number in terms of available bed space? Would you have that number
17 or no?
18

19 **MS. CULP:**

20 Not on me. I know they've been very busy. I understand, you know,
21 there's been a lot of ongoing conversations between EMS and PD and
22 we are now working with the State to look at their numbers and
23 diversion protocols so that's all, you know, in coordination. But
24 I can --
25

26 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

27 Yeah, just to like, you know, to put it on your radar. So I met
28 with Northwell last week and they have a small facility at the
29 Huntington Hospital.
30

31 **MS. CULP:**

32 Yes.
33

34 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

35 I think it's 20 beds. It just happened to be the day that I was
36 there they had every bed was full and they had people waiting. So,
37 you know, clearly bed space I think is becoming a bit of a
38 challenge so I just was wondering how --
39

40 **MS. CULP:**

41 Absolutely.
42

43 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

44 -- like, you know, long-term strategy is going to look like to
45 that.
46

47 **MS. CULP:**

48 Yeah, and we have been in touch with Huntington Hospital as well
49 and we are coordinating with New York State OMH so they're aware of
50 the issue and, you know, how we can support our local hospitals,
51 but also support folks who are in need of those services, too.
52

53 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

54 Great. Thanks, Jen. Thanks for all your great work.
55
56

1 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

2 Good question. Good question, Legislator Donnelly. Very
3 important. On 1332, we have a motion and a second and placement on
4 the Consent Calendar. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

5
6 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

7 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0/CONSENT CALENDAR)

8
9 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

10 Okay, 1332 is approved and placed on the Consent Calendar.

11
12 Before we close, Legislator Thorne has asked for point of personal
13 privilege. Go ahead, Legislator Thorne.

14
15 **LEG. THORNE:**

16 Jennifer, I don't know if this is in your purview and who to ask
17 the right question to, so I apologize if it's not. We had a very
18 horrible event. Can you hear me? A young man took -- committed
19 suicide. And when I say young man, I mean a school age kid. What
20 are with doing for outreach for our youth for suicide prevention?
21 Yes, we know it's suicide awareness month, and that's all great,
22 but I'm more of an action guy and I want to know what can we do
23 more, what are we not doing, to reach these kids before they take
24 that ultimate step?

25
26 **MS. CULP:**

27 Well, we in terms of behavioral health we have a network of
28 community-based providers who have different levels of services
29 available. So there's, you know, more at the prevention with
30 education and coping skills and upstander skills developed
31 throughout, you know, a health education type approach. And then
32 we also have community-based providers who come in after, you know,
33 an unfortunate situation to provide that hands-on, you know, more
34 clinical crisis skill set.

35
36 But we've been talking with our Division of Community Mental
37 Hygiene about, you know, how to highlight these community partners,
38 how to build these relationships between the schools and the
39 partners, and then also internally our Office of Health Education.
40 We've also been talking about this and looking at various
41 evidence-based curriculums that we may be able to look at and, you
42 know, get access to the schools and so it's certainly on everyone's
43 radar. And, you know, we're at the beginning stages of those
44 actions. You know, we have the same approach you did, like what
45 actions can we take to help support our schools and our kids and
46 the families.

47
48 **LEG. THORNE:**

49 So in your opinion, and I don't know if you're allowed to give it,
50 but in your opinion is there legislation required to kind of make
51 the schools and us work together if we don't have a good
52 relationship with the school district for whatever reason. I can't
53 see why anybody wouldn't want to protect our children. But is
54 there legislation off the top of your head, can you e-mail me
55 stuff? If you want to do it offline that's great, but it's
56 something that is on my radar and we certainly want to protect our

1 children, so.

2
3 **MS. CULP:**

4 Yup, I will talk to staff and get back to you. Yeah, I mean, for
5 the most part in our experience, you know, most schools are, you
6 know, opening their doors, what can we do, how can we do more? You
7 have seen some increased funding, especially COVID related, in
8 terms of support and Wraparound services in our schools. But I
9 think we'd probably all agree, you know, it's not enough. It
10 certainly -- we're seeing, you know, higher levels of crisis and we
11 need to be able to support those kids and the families.

12
13 **LEG. THORNE:**

14 Thank you so much. I'll look forward to our conversation in the
15 near future.

16
17 **MS. CULP:**

18 Sounds good. Thank you.

19
20 **LEG. THORNE:**

21 Thank you, Jennifer. Thank you, Madam Chair.

22
23 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

24 Thank you, Legislator Thorne. Excellent questions. Seeing no
25 further business --

26
27 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

28 Madam Chair?

29
30 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

31 -- this Health Committee is now adjourned. Oh, did you want to say
32 something? We're un-adjourned.

33
34 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

35 That's okay. Thank you.

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY:**

38 That's it. Okay.

39
40 **THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:39 PM**

DATE

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