

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROSE WALKER
CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

January 13, 2014
3:29 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

A P P E A R A N C E S:

ROSE MARIE WALKER
Chairwoman

FRANCIS X. BECKER
Vice-Chairman

LAURA SCHAEFER

MICHAEL VENDITTO

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON (Not Present)
Ranking

CARRIE SOLAGES (Sitting in for Delia DeRiggi-Whitton)

JUDITH JACBOS

KEVAN ABRAHAMS

WILLIAM J. MULLER, III
Clerk of the Legislature

LIST OF SPEAKERS

GREG MAY. 5
PAUL BRODERICK. 5
MARY ELLEN LAURAIN. 8
RABIA AZIZ. 10

2 CLERK MULLER: The Health Committee is
3 called to order, and I will take the roll.

4 Legislator Abrahams?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

6 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

7 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

8 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Solages,
9 substituting for Ranking Member DeRiggi-Whitton?

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

11 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Venditto?

12 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Here.

13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Schaeffer?

14 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

15 CLERK MULLER: Vice Chairman Becker?

16 LEGISLATOR BECKER: Present.

17 CLERK MULLER: Chairwoman Walker?

18 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Here.

19 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

20 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you. We have
21 four items on the agenda today. The first item
22 is Clerk Item 9-14, which is an ordinance
23 supplemental to the annual appropriations

2 ordinance in connection with the Department of
3 Social Services.

4 May I have a motion, please?

5 LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

6 LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Motion by Legislator
8 Becker, seconded by Legislator Venditto.

9 The motion is before us. Mr. May.

10 MR. MAY: We have Mr. Paul Broderick
11 from the Department of Social Services.

12 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Mr. Broderick, just
13 to wish you a Happy New Year from all of us.

14 MR. BRODERICK: Same to you, Legislator.
15 Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you.

17 MR. BRODERICK: Good afternoon. Paul
18 Broderick, Deputy Commissioner, Department of
19 Social Services.

20 I'm both proud and happy to say the item
21 before you, the appropriation before you is for
22 \$50,000 from Department of New York State Office
23 of Children and Family Services. The money here
24 was secured by our staff as a grant to help us
25 advance technologically.

We are using this \$50,000 to purchase iPads for our staff in the field to better communicate with the department, have instant information, and inter-operability between field workers and our systems. We're moving forward. That's a real, good, positive advancement for the department.

Do you have any questions?

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

All those in favor?

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The motion carries and moves on to Finance.

The next item is Clerk Item 12-14, which is an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Department of Social Services.

I'm assuming, Mr. Broderick -- we need a

motion, please.

LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: So moved.

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Moved by Legislator Venditto, seconded by Legislator Becker.

MR. BRODERICK: Thank you, Legislator Walker.

Last year the department received a grant of \$100,000 from New York OCFS to combat daycare fraud. The department was extremely successful, I'm happy to say. Both the efforts of our investigative staff and daycare staff had utilized the \$100,000 and had a return on that of well over \$1 million in cost avoidance.

This year, the OCFS had cut back on their grants but they did give a grant to Nassau County for \$36,000. We're going to use that to further our efforts to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in our daycare program.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Any comments?

(No verbal response.)

2 Any public comment?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 All those in favor?

5 (Aye.)

6 Any opposed?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 The motion carries and will move on to
9 Finance.

10 MR. BRODERICK: Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
12 Broderick.

13 Our next item is Clerk Item 15-14, which
14 is an ordinance supplemental to the annual
15 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
16 Health Department.

17 Motion, please?

18 LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

19 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Moved by Legislator
21 Becker, seconded by Legislator Schaefer.

22 MR. MAY: We have Ms. Mary Ellen Laurain
23 from the Health Department.

24 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Ms. Laurain, also to
25 wish you a very, very Happy New Year.

2 MS. LAURAIN: Same to you. Thank you.
3 Mary Ellen Laurain, Department of Health.

4 Item 15-14 is a supplemental
5 appropriation in the amount of \$9,180,804. This
6 is for the Ryan White HIV grant. It is 100
7 percent funded through the United States
8 Department of Health and Human Services. This
9 provides comprehensive HIV and AIDS services.

10 Nassau receives the grant because the
11 federal government considers Long Island one
12 area. So then, through an inter-government
13 agreement with Suffolk County, the United Way
14 administers the grant.

15 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Are there any
16 legislators that have any comment? Legislator
17 Solages.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very much,
19 Madam Chair Walker.

20 Where there be any difference in which
21 the funds will be administered compared to the
22 past?

23 MS. LAURAIN: We don't anticipate that.
24 This is an estimate of the funding. We haven't
25 received the award. We've been doing this for

2 about 19 years. So we do not have the confirmed
3 about with the federal government. So we don't
4 break services, we need to continue with the
5 grant.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood.
7 There's been significant progress in the
8 treatment of HIV in that those affected with the
9 disease are living longer. And I would like to
10 know would this affect your strategy in terms of
11 addressing this with the different organizations?

12 MS. LAURAIN: We don't anticipate that,
13 no.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Okay. Understood.
15 Nothing further.

16 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other
17 legislators?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 I do have two people who have questions
20 on this, and certainly anyone else who wishes to.
21 But I have Mr. Richard Brodsky.

22 (No verbal response.)

23 Rabia Aziz. Did I pronounce that right?
24 I hope, Rabia. Thank you.

25 MS. AZIZ: Good afternoon. I'd like to

1 thank the Nassau legislative body for holding
2 this open forum for public comment on HIV/AIDS.

3
4 Too often we don't hear about HIV/AIDS
5 any longer. In the decades of the 90's, we heard
6 a lot about it. However, I'm here today to tell
7 you that it's still very much an issue of
8 HIV/AIDS in Nassau/Suffolk County.

9 The previous speaker spoke about the
10 federal funds coming into Nassau/Suffolk County,
11 and that was because early in the 90's we were
12 able to document the number of HIV positive
13 individuals on Long Island to set up our own EMA.

14 When the federal funds for Ryan White
15 were first distributed or first to be
16 distributed, Long Island was part of New York
17 City. It was a pandemic in New York City. We,
18 as human service providers, knew that we could no
19 longer compete with New York City for the funds.
20 We were able to document the number of HIV
21 positive individuals in Nassau/Suffolk County for
22 the Nassau/Suffolk health region to be its own
23 EMA.

24 At present, the United Way quotes that
25 there are 6,158 persons living in Nassau/Suffolk

County that is either infected with HIV or have full blown AIDS. So, therefore, we know that we still have a lot of work to do. Because of the inter-governmental agreement between Nassau and Suffolk County, we have created a public health model that is revered within the State of New York. Because the planning council, which administrated the funds, exists at the United Way, the community-based programs that provide services are able to access the money in a timely way and deliver those services without any break in care.

As we know, prevention and treatment is most important in taking care of HIV. The national HIV strategy, which is to get to zero infection rates, is very important, and is that those individuals are infected with HIV or have full blown AIDS have treatment and care. And through the Ryan White Planning Council, the \$9 million or some dollars that will eventually come back to Nassau and Suffolk Counties is used to keep those individuals in care and also provide for those individuals that are at risk. The Nassau/Suffolk County region has done an

2 excellent job in terms of developing an
3 infrastructure that allows that to happen.

4 Our hospitals of Stony Brook and NUMC
5 have been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS since day
6 one. To continue that, we do need those federal
7 dollars to come into the County. Also, for
8 supportive services, the HIV transportation
9 program is very important to connect to care. As
10 you know, the eastern part of Suffolk County is
11 very rural. They have to come into Stony Brook
12 to get care, and that's an important issue.

13 We know that we have a raging heroin
14 epidemic here in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
15 One of the major transmissions of HIV is injected
16 drug use. And so we know that if we are not
17 proactive and keep that health structure in
18 place, that we can see that kind of epidemic
19 coming back again.

20 So I just would like to implore everyone
21 within the legislative body to vote pro for this
22 conduit of funds so that the services can
23 continue and that we can deliver the services to
24 the community.

25 Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you. And thank you for your dedication and all your hard work and sharing all of that information with us.

MS. AZIZ: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Madam Chair, if I may. Ms. Aziz, thank you very much for coming here today. I'd just like to put on the record that Ms. Aziz was part of a program that we held last year on Valentine's Day on this issue. And I will provide a press release to all of my colleagues here, on the legislature, with respect to -- and there's also a link on You-Tube of that entire forum. This issue is a very important issue, and I just want to make sure that we keep this at the forefront of this health crisis.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you, Legislator Solages.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you very much.

MS. AZIZ: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Did Mr. Brodsky come in yet? If Mr. Brodsky does come in, we'll give him the opportunity to speak after our next item that's brought up.

2 All those in favor of Clerk Item 15-14?

3 (Aye.)

4 Any opposed?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 The motion carries, and will go on to
7 Finance.

8 Our last item is Clerk Item 16-14, which
9 is an ordinance supplemental to the annual
10 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
11 Health Department.

12 MS. LAURAIN: Mary Ellen Laurain,
13 Department of Health.

14 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: We just need a
15 motion.

16 LEGISLATOR BECKER: So moved.

17 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Moved by Legislator
19 Becker, seconded by Legislator Schaeffer.

20 MS. LAURAIN: Item 16-14 is a
21 supplemental appropriation in the amount of
22 \$190,000. This is for the sexually transmitted
23 disease intervention program. It is funded
24 through New York State Department of Health.
25 Staff at the Department of Health confirm

treatment -- diagnosis and treatment of disease.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions or comments from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

Seeing none, all those in favor?

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Motion passes unanimously and once again moves on to Finance.

We will hold -- if Mr. Brodsky is not here yet, we will hold him over to Finance if he does get in here or Rules.

Those are all of our items today. May I have a motion to --

LEGISLATOR BECKER: Move to adjourn.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Motion to adjourn by Legislator Becker, seconded by Legislator Schaeffer.

All in favor?

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 Health Committee is adjourned.

4 (Whereupon, the Health and Social
5 Services Committee adjourned at 3:40 p.m.)

6

7

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above mentioned and took stenographic record of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript of the same and the whole thereof, according to the best of my ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of January, 2014.

FRANK GRAY