

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

HOWARD KOPEL

PRESIDING OFFICER

HEATH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROSE MARIE WALKER

CHAIRWOMAN

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, January 8, 2024

4:15 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

A P P E A R A N C E S

CHAIRWOMAN ROSE MARIE WALKER

VICE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ

LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON - RANKING

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

LEGISLATOR SETH KOSLOW

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I'd like to call
the health committee to order.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
Chairwoman.

Health and Social Service Vice
Chairman Michael Giangregoria?

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
Pilip?

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Samantha
Goetz?

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Seth
Koslow?

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum.

CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: And I am here.

1
2 CLERK PULITZER: Of course,
3 Chairwoman Rose Marie Walker.

4 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you.

5 First, we need a motion to suspend
6 the Rules. And that is by, Legislator
7 Giangregorio and seconded by Seth Koslow.

8 All those in favor of suspending the
9 Rules, signify by saying, "Aye".

10 (Whereupon, all members of
11 the Health and Social Service
12 Committee respond in favor
13 with, "Aye".)

14 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: There is one
15 item on the agenda today, Clerk Item
16 9-24. It's an ordinance supplemental to
17 the annual appropriation ordinance in
18 connection with the Health Department.

19 MS. DESIMONE: Good afternoon, Ann
20 Desimone, Health.

21 Item 9-24 is a supplemental
22 appropriation in the amount of \$70,928
23 for the Child fatality review team. This
24 is 100% grant funded through the New York
25 State Office of Children and Family

1
2 Services. The Child Fatality Review Team
3 reviews all deaths of children who reside
4 and die in Nassau County, and whose death
5 is either unexplained or unexpected. The
6 review is done to better understand the
7 causes of childhood death in the county,
8 and to make recommendations based on the
9 findings.

10 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Just before --
11 we didn't do a motion on the item. So,
12 for Clerk Item 9-24, it is from
13 Legislator Drucker and seconded by
14 Legislator Pilip.

15 All right. So we heard what what was
16 said. Any questions?

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Just on
18 a side note, we all heard the testimony
19 regarding the funding for different
20 occupational specialists. Let's really
21 commit to find out how we can see where
22 that money is coming from and what the
23 process is to evaluate their salaries.
24 Okay.

25 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: That money would

1
2 come from Early Intervention, correct?

3 MS. DESIMONE: I'm not really sure.
4 I know that program, it's preschool and
5 early intervention. I think Andy would be
6 able to better address that.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It'd be
8 good if we knew if state money
9 supplemented that or how we --

10 MR. PERSICH: If you're referring to
11 what the speakers were talking about
12 prior, yes. It's Early Intervention money
13 where there's a 56% reimbursement rate
14 for the money that we spend through that.
15 We're evaluating rate increases as we
16 speak right now. That's been dialogue.
17 We're looking at it right now to see what
18 point it should be at. In addition, to
19 budget for 2024 is increased by \$12
20 million because the additional needs that
21 we're seeing. So there's a dynamic here.
22 The way I see, there's a volume increase,
23 which they're still providing the
24 services, which they're getting, but I
25 think we do need to address the related

1
2 problems. And it's through Early
3 Intervention and Health Department.

4 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. I know
5 that wasn't on this item.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I know.
7 But I just it was so important that we
8 appreciate if you could just let us know.

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Andy, would you
10 be able to get have something back for us
11 by Full Ledge?

12 MR. PERSICH: I will work with my
13 principals and get something to you.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Okay. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Legislator
17 Pilip.

18 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Andy, as you
19 know, we spoke about this a couple of
20 months ago, and I know you're checking
21 this issue and I really would expect
22 something to take place because it's not
23 fair. Those people are working very hard
24 to help our children and we have to
25 evaluate this.

1
2 MR. PERSICH: Understood,
3 Legislator.

4 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you so
5 much.

6 MR. PERSICH: We will work with you
7 guys and get this problem resolved. Okay.

8 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: And just a quick
10 question on this item. Now, this was for
11 unexplained deaths. Has that number gone
12 up or been steady? No matter what the
13 number is, it's so sad.

14 MS. DESIMONE: It's sad. They review
15 about the same amount every year, 6 to 7.
16 Sometimes as high as ten, but I'll get
17 the exact amount of how many they review
18 for you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Okay. Thank you.

20 MS. DESIMONE: You're welcome.

21 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other
22 questions or comments?

23 (Whereupon, no verbal
24 response.)

25 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Seeing none. All

1
2 in favor of Clerk Item 9-24, signify by
3 saying, "Aye".

4 (Whereupon, all members of
5 the Health and Social Services
6 Committee respond in favor
7 with, "Aye".)

8 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any opposed?

9 (Whereupon, no verbal
10 response.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Then this will
12 move on to Finance.

13 Thank you so much.

14 Next we'll be Planning Committee.

15
16 (Whereupon, above matter
17 concludes, 4:19 P.M.)
18
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25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: SS.:

COUNTY OF NASSAU)

I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public
for and within the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That the above is a correct
transcription of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 8th day of January, 2024.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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