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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

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11 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

12 COMMITTEE

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14 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

15 CHAIR

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17

18 Theodore Roosevelt Building

19 1550 Franklin Avenue

20 Mineola, New York

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22

23 April 9, 2018

24 2:47 P.M.

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2     A P P E A R A N C E S:

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4     LEGISLATOR VINCENT MUSCARELLA

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6     LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

7                     Vice Chair

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9     LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

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11    LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR

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13    LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

14                     Ranking member

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16    LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

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18    LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

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1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I will call  
3 the Health and Social Services Committee to  
4 order. I will ask the clerk to call the roll.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
6 Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

7 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold  
9 Drucker.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Ranking member  
12 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
14 Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.  
16 William Gaylor III.

17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura  
19 Schaefer.

20 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Filling in for  
22 Rose Walker would be Vincent Muscarella.

23 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: And the temporary  
25 chair would be vice chairman James Kennedy.

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I'm here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.

4 MR. KENNEDY: We have a quorum.

5 We have five items on the agenda.

6 Clerk item numbers 108-18, 109-18, 133-18

7 142-18 and 143-18 are all ordinances

8 supplemental to the annual appropriations in

9 connection with the Health Department.

10 May I have a motion for these

11 items. Moved by Legislator Schaefer.

12 Seconded by Legislator Drucker. These items

13 are before us. Who is here to speak on these

14 items?

15 MS. LAURAIN: Mary Ellen Laurain,

16 Department of Health.

17 Item 108-18 is a supplemental

18 appropriation in the amount of \$145,955. This

19 is for the Drinking Water Enhancement Program

20 and it is funded through the New York State

21 Department of Health. The program ensures

22 that the 46 water districts in Nassau County

23 comply to part five of the New York State

24 Sanitary Code.

25 MR. KENNEDY: Any debate or

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 discussion? Legislator.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi.

4 How are you? We've all been very concerned  
5 about this as far as things such as the Queens  
6 well issue. Do you know if there's any effort  
7 to have that acknowledged through this  
8 process?

9 MS. LAURAIN: That's under the  
10 New York State Department of DEC. It's their  
11 permit. I'm not sure where that stands at  
12 this point.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Are  
14 we going to make any attempt through our  
15 testing to show any data or anything that can  
16 back up our hope to have it not go forward?

17 MS. LAURAIN: We do 250,000  
18 analyses a year of all of our water  
19 districts. And that's all submitted to the  
20 state.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Is  
22 it submitted to other Nassau County agencies  
23 like possibly LICAP or other?

24 MS. LAURAIN: Our director of  
25 environmental health does sit on LICAP. I can

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 certainly ask him.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We  
4 really have to start sharing information and  
5 being proactive with stuff. We have the  
6 information. I think it's just not used  
7 enough as far as we have a major issue coming  
8 up with that, and I think possibly this type  
9 of information could help. So, maybe you can  
10 make an effort to share it with that agency  
11 especially.

12 MS. LAURAIN: Certainly.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: To follow up  
14 with Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. Will the  
15 information be shared with the local water  
16 districts? We have so many different  
17 independent water districts and it would be  
18 very beneficial if each of them could share in  
19 some of the information received from the  
20 evaluations.

21 MS. LAURAIN: The water districts  
22 are required to do their testing weekly and  
23 they're also required to an annual report to  
24 the constituents.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Where do you

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 foresee this data going?

3 MS. LAURAIN: The data that we  
4 collect is submitted to the state.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Just the  
6 state. So you will be collaborating with the  
7 state?

8 MS. LAURAIN: And the water  
9 districts have to make it accessible to their  
10 constituents.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But they  
12 will be getting it state not from you, the  
13 county?

14 MS. LAURAIN: No. They get it  
15 from their supplier through their annual water  
16 survey.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But the data  
18 that you will be getting from these  
19 evaluations, this specific fund, you will  
20 sharing that with the state DEP?

21 MS. LAURAIN: New York State  
22 Department of Health. That's who our funding  
23 is through. We collect 250,000 analyses. One  
24 analyses could be for a hundred different  
25 items. Chemicals or e-coli or something like

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 that.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So this is  
4 the information then that the individual water  
5 districts receive at some point during the  
6 course of the year that help them in what  
7 they're doing for their individual supply?

8 MS. LAURAIN: No. This funds our  
9 department to do our sampling and submit our  
10 analyses to the state.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: How do the  
12 districts get it?

13 MS. LAURAIN: The districts have  
14 to do their own sampling.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Again, it's  
16 like with Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton was  
17 saying. There seems to be walls of separation  
18 in terms of communication and sharing of  
19 information that leads to a lot of the  
20 problems we have.

21 MS. LAURAIN: The LICAP, which  
22 you suggested, all the different agencies do  
23 meet. I can certainly have our director of  
24 environmental health sit down with you and  
25 discuss exactly what they do. I don't sit on

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 those meetings.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: We need to  
4 do a better job of sharing the information.

5 MS. LAURAIN: There's a lot of  
6 separation between what the local Department  
7 of Health and what the DEC does.

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Local  
9 Department of Health meaning?

10 MS. LAURAIN: The Nassau County  
11 Department of Health.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: And what DEP  
13 does. Right.

14 MS. LAURAIN: DEC.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I  
16 understand. But again you're going to be  
17 making evaluations. You're going to be  
18 receiving data. You're reporting it to the  
19 Department of Health from the state level and  
20 then how does that filter down to the  
21 individual district? I understand they have  
22 to do their own testing but there's still an  
23 overlap with the results perhaps.

24 MS. LAURAIN: All our analyses  
25 are shared with the water districts. Our

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18  
2 250,000 that we do a year is certainly  
3 shared. They have to do their own. Ours is  
4 really a surveillance program. The water  
5 districts are required to do their own  
6 sampling weekly, if not more than weekly.

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I  
8 understand. I'm just talking about sharing of  
9 information. That's all I'm trying to get  
10 to. I understand what you're going to be  
11 doing. All I'm saying is there has to be a  
12 better effort from all parties to share the  
13 data, share the information. We're all  
14 drinking from the same aquifer. Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you.  
16 Legislator Schaefer and then Legislator  
17 Gaylor.

18 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Sounds to  
19 me like from the conversation and from what I  
20 know personally that a lot of it is going  
21 through the DEC. That the issues that we're  
22 dealing with the volatile, the organics and  
23 those compounds, that's all being dealt with  
24 at the state level with the contribution from  
25 the local and the county; is that correct?

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 MS. LAURAIN: The DEC is  
3 responsible for say Legislator  
4 DeRiggi-Whitton's district with the freon 22.  
5 Their responsibility is to determine where the  
6 contamination is coming from. We often find  
7 it through our regular analyses or the water  
8 districts. So it could be somewhat  
9 complicated as to who -- and we often do meet  
10 together as agencies overlapping if you will.

11 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I know  
12 certainly at the RAB meetings they always have  
13 the local water districts are there. The DEC  
14 is there. Everybody is kind of on board  
15 trying to get the same information. I  
16 understand what you're saying. There's a lot  
17 of different moving parts.

18 MS. LAURAIN: We usually have a  
19 local representative if it's a DEC or state  
20 Department of Health meeting just to be on the  
21 same page and hear what they have to say and  
22 assist in any way we can.

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you.

24 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you.

25 Legislator Gaylor.

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2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I think I  
3 heard you state in the back and forth with  
4 Legislature Drucker that you do share the  
5 results of your sampling with the individual  
6 districts; is that correct?

7 MS. LAURAIN: Yes.

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: If there's an  
9 abnormal reading or high reading above a  
10 certain standard that information will be  
11 shared? E-coli or whatever it may be.

12 MS. LAURAIN: Immediately. We  
13 would mandate that they resample. And in fact  
14 we would resample. If a district say had a  
15 positive hit for e-coli and it could be maybe  
16 that the source was contaminated in the  
17 process and it wasn't coming exactly from the  
18 distribution, we would require them to  
19 resample immediately, maybe provide extra  
20 chlorination, whatever the situation would be,  
21 and we also, the Department of Health, would  
22 sample.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: You share  
24 it --

25 MS. LAURAIN: Absolutely.

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I want to  
3 clarify. You do share with the water  
4 districts as well as providing or affording  
5 that information to the state?

6 MS. LAURAIN: All of their  
7 sampling they have to submit to us. Sorry if  
8 I wasn't clear.

9 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you.  
10 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Is  
12 there any test that you do that would in any  
13 way monitor salt water intrusion?

14 MS. LAURAIN: I'm not sure of  
15 that. I don't believe so but I would have to  
16 check.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: To  
18 do all this testing, I wonder if there is a  
19 way to include -- sounds like it's a real  
20 concern since you're doing all that testing  
21 anyway that there was some way we could see if  
22 the level of sodium or salt water goes up it  
23 would maybe be the quickest way we would know  
24 about salt water intrusion is your testing.

25 MS. LAURAIN: I would have to

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18  
2 check. I'm happy to get back to you. I just  
3 have to check with the water experts. I'm not  
4 totally 100 percent on that.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
6 think what Legislator Drucker was basically  
7 saying is we do what 350 tests?

8 MS. LAURAIN: 250,000. That's  
9 analyses. One analyses could be for many  
10 different. That's what the Department of  
11 Health does. The water districts do their own  
12 as well.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But  
14 do we also cover the water districts in those  
15 test or just do the public water areas?

16 MS. LAURAIN: The 46 public water  
17 districts.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We  
19 don't go in the private water --

20 MS. LAURAIN: You mean the  
21 wells? I don't know what you're asking.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The  
23 private water districts are the only ones  
24 responsible for testing that water or does the  
25 county also test the private water district?

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 MS. LAURAIN: I don't know of any  
3 private. I don't know what you're referring  
4 to.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The  
6 private districts, the districts that test  
7 their own water we just said, does the county  
8 also ever test that same water?

9 MS. LAURAIN: You would have to  
10 give me an example.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Port  
12 Washington has a private water district. Does  
13 the county also check?

14 MS. LAURAIN: I would have to  
15 check.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm  
17 trying to figure it out. It's not your  
18 responsibility.

19 MS. LAURAIN: We ensure that the  
20 water that goes into homes meets all local,  
21 state and federal requirements for drinking  
22 water standards.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: For  
24 the entire county? Doesn't matter if it's  
25 public or private water?

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 MS. LAURAIN: I'm not familiar  
3 with the private. I would have to look into  
4 it. I'm not aware of that.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I don't  
6 know. I think I guess you like Legislator  
7 Gaylor better. You answered his question. I  
8 thought I asked the exact same question but I  
9 got a different answer than Legislator Gaylor  
10 got. All I wanted to know is, do you share  
11 with the individual water districts and you  
12 told him you did and with me you kind of did a  
13 little well, they have to do their own  
14 testing.

15 MS. LAURAIN: I wasn't clear. We  
16 do the surveillance sampling. They do their  
17 testing. They have to submit it to us. I'm  
18 sorry if I wasn't clear.

19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Maybe to  
20 help myself at least and perhaps Legislator  
21 DeRiggi-Whitton. Can you give us an example  
22 of what public water are you testing?

23 MS. LAURAIN: The water that is  
24 delivered to people's homes in Nassau County.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But you said

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 that -- Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton said Port  
3 Washington has their own water district.

4 MS. LAURAIN: I'm not aware of  
5 that.

6 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: They are.  
7 They have their own water district.

8 MS. LAURAIN: If it's a public  
9 water district, the 46 that I'm aware of. I'm  
10 not aware of private water districts. I would  
11 really have to look into it further.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Do you know  
13 public water districts you can recite for us  
14 now?

15 MS. LAURAIN: Western Nassau. I  
16 don't have them all with me. I don't have the  
17 46 water districts.

18 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just asked  
19 for one or two or three?

20 MS. LAURAIN: Western Nassau.

21 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Where does  
22 western Nassau cover?

23 You want to get over there?

24 Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18  
2 Legislator Drucker. Any other questions? Any  
3 public comment? Move on to 109-18.

4 MS. LAURAIN: 109-18 is a  
5 supplemental appropriation in the amount of  
6 \$418,578. It's our tuberculosis public health  
7 campaign. Again, this is funded through New  
8 York State Department of Health and it is to  
9 protect the public from the spread of  
10 tuberculosis.

11 MR. KENNEDY: Any questions? Any  
12 public comment? I will move on to 133-18.

13 MS. LAURAIN: Item 133-18 is  
14 supplemental appropriation in the amount of  
15 \$20,360. This is for our rabies program.  
16 Again, it's funded through New York State  
17 Department of Health and its objective is to  
18 protect the public against rabies.

19 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Any  
20 questions? Any public comment? Move on to  
21 142-18.

22 MS. LAURAIN: Item 142-18 is a  
23 supplemental appropriation in the amount of  
24 \$155,000. This is for our HIV Expanded  
25 Services Grant. It's funded through the New

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18  
2 York State Department of Health, and it is to  
3 facilitate residents who may be affected and  
4 not receiving medical care.

5 MR. KENNEDY: Any questions on  
6 this item? Any public comment?

7 MS. ROSE: Stacy Rose. I'm a  
8 Freeport resident. I am very concerned as  
9 we're looking at our incarceration rates and  
10 correctional facilities. A lot of HIV is  
11 being spread to the general population from  
12 our prison system. Are you seeing that? Do  
13 we know what the rates are? And are we  
14 looking at that through our public health  
15 services?

16 MS. LAURAIN: The Department of  
17 Health does reach out and we know those that  
18 may be infected and out of care. We are able  
19 to reach out to them and try to assist in  
20 getting them into care. Of course we work  
21 with the correctional facility as well. They  
22 are primarily under the care of the Nassau  
23 University Medical Center though.

24 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you. On to  
25 the last one item, 143-18.

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18

2 MS. LAURAIN: Item 143 is a  
3 supplemental appropriation in the amount of  
4 \$75,000. This is for our sexually transmitted  
5 disease program. Again, it's funded through  
6 the New York State Department of Health and  
7 its mission is to reduce the spread of  
8 sexually transmitted diseases.

9 MR. KENNEDY: Any questions from  
10 the legislators? Any public comment?

11 MS. MEREDAY: I'm just curious as  
12 to where is the reporting or benchmarks as far  
13 as the success of any of these programs? How  
14 well are they doing? How well have they  
15 eradicated the situation? How well have they  
16 increased education, awareness, prevention?  
17 Who actually gets those reports? Do any of  
18 you have actually have those reports that you  
19 can speak on the success of these issues? I  
20 didn't even do the quick add but this is just  
21 under a million dollars. This is some serious  
22 money that we are putting out, and I was just  
23 a little disappointed that I didn't want to  
24 make any assumptions that you already have the  
25 information and didn't want the rest of us to

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18  
2 know, but I was a little disappointed no one  
3 asked any questions about the success rates or  
4 program milestones that have been achieved  
5 with any of these programs. So I am asking  
6 the question.

7 So if there is a report, if there  
8 is an update, if there is some success story,  
9 testimonial, cricket press, something, that  
10 would be very interesting for those of us to  
11 know.

12 And also, have we looked at again  
13 how we are informing the public? Do we know  
14 what key areas or locations that are  
15 impacted? Are those areas getting an increase  
16 in the resources? I'm sorry, again, you are  
17 the stewards of our funding. If you're not  
18 asking the questions, you make the decisions,  
19 why can you then try to come back when  
20 questions are coming to you from the media  
21 about why a program didn't work or why a  
22 particular community has been overlooked?  
23 Hello? That's my story and I'm sticking to  
24 it.

25 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you. All

1 Health and Social Services - 4-9-18  
2 those in favor of passing these items please  
3 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? Thank  
4 you. These items pass unanimously.

5                   There is no other business in front  
6 of this committee. May I have a motion to  
7 adjourn. Moved by Legislator Gaylor.  
8 Seconded by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. All  
9 those in favor of adjournment? Thank you. We  
10 are now adjourned.

11                   (TIME NOTED: 3:17 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATION

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

THAT the foregoing is a true and  
accurate transcript of my stenographic  
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand this 11th day of  
April 2018

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FRANK GRAY