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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

10

11 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

12 COMMITTEE

13

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 December 3, 2018

24 5:24 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

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9 LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

10

11 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR

12

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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2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Call the
3 Health and Social Services Committee to order
4 and please take the roll.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Health
6 and Social Services Committee roll call.
7 Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

8 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
10 Drucker.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
13 DeRiggi-Whitton.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
15 Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
17 William Gaylor the Third.

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas
20 McKevitt.

21 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Howard
23 Kopel.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Chairwoman Rose

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2 Marie Walker.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
5 ma'am.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I will start
7 with the first four items before we go to the
8 addendum. Clerk item 440-18 is a local law to
9 require certain county employees to receive
10 mental health first aid and training.

11 A motion please. By Legislator
12 Gaylor. Second by Legislator Drucker.

13 MR. SANTERAMO: Mike Santeramo
14 from the administration. I know it's a
15 legislative item. I just want to convey
16 thoughts from the administration that we are,
17 the administration and the county executive,
18 are extremely excited to work with Legislator
19 Bynoe. We recognize her unwavering commitment
20 to mental health first aid and really look
21 forward to implementing the ideas and the
22 programs laid out in this piece of
23 legislation.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I know that
25 Legislator Bynoe is not actually on this

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2 committee but she is going to be speaking
3 about this bill.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
5 Chairwoman. Good evening colleagues. I
6 briefly would like to share some information
7 about the mental health first aid bill that
8 was filed. The bill would require that all
9 current and part-time employees of Nassau
10 County who provide direct services to our
11 residents be trained by way of receiving an
12 eight hour course in mental health first aid.
13 Mental health first aid is a training that
14 would attempt or establish an opportunity for
15 all employees to be able to identify when
16 someone might be in crisis and then assist
17 them in learning techniques that would
18 de-escalate someone in crisis. And moreover,
19 it would allow them to make a referral to the
20 proper entities for assistance.

21 This training I believe would be a
22 really vital essential tool that our employees
23 would have in dealing with our community.
24 Which in the current state is under a large
25 burden based on our opioid crisis. Also

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2 suicide rates are up across the country and we
3 want to be able to attempt to identify if
4 somebody is really struggling. We also have
5 young people who are exhibiting signs maybe of
6 antisocial behavior and aggressive behaviors
7 in and around schools.

8 I believe that this would be a real
9 proactive approach to dealing with some of
10 those issues as opposed to being reactionary.
11 I believe that this training would also assist
12 in destigmatizing mental health issues.

13 So, some of the employees that
14 would receive this training would include our
15 correctional facility, correction staff. Also
16 include our case workers in social services,
17 child protective services, adult protective
18 services. It would also include our welfare
19 examiners, our probationary staff, our parole
20 staff.

21 This bill takes into account the
22 training could be troublesome in terms of
23 scheduling for our employees. So it's a phase
24 in approach. It would be a requirement for
25 each department head to make sure one-third of

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2 their staffers went out and had the training
3 per year for the next three years until we
4 have everybody ramped up and trained.

5 It would also not require
6 departments that are currently receiving
7 mental health first aid training that are
8 receiving some training in mental health not
9 have to take this course. If they are
10 receiving training that is equal to or exceeds
11 the mental health first aid they would be
12 exempt from the requirement to do the
13 training.

14 I do think it would be a beneficial
15 undertaking for us as a legislature to ensure
16 that our employees are trained and have every
17 tool available to them as we fight some of
18 these issues that are plaguing our
19 communities.

20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Legislator
21 Kopel.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Sounds like a
23 great program. Have you figured out what it
24 might course and how this is going to be
25 done? Have you got this?

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We've looked
3 at the cost associated with acquiring the
4 books. We've looked at the fact it's like \$22
5 per employee for the training. Most of our
6 staff in the Human Services Department within
7 that mental health component are trained to be
8 able to train our employees. So there
9 shouldn't be any additional cost born to us.

10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Probably save
11 a lot of money in damages down the road and so
12 forth.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Potential.
14 Nassau County Mental Health organization
15 partnering up with our human services may be
16 able to supplement as well.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: They will
18 just do it during the workday? Like at a
19 period of time when they're doing this
20 training and obviously in-house someplace so
21 they don't have to travel to get in this
22 training.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I would expect
24 that's the plan of the administration. That
25 is why we put in the component in the bill

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2 that let's them do it a third, a third and a
3 third so that they can take account scheduling
4 and it can be done during the day and less of
5 a requirement for any type of overtime or
6 anything of that nature.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Is it one
8 straight setting? It's eight hours in a day?

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That's a good
10 question. Each department would have an
11 opportunity to determine what's best for
12 them. This course has been offered in two
13 parts, four hours and then come back the
14 following week or the following day for four
15 hours and it's been offered in the eight hour
16 option as well.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any other
18 questions from the legislators? Any public
19 comment? Mr. Budnick. I'm sorry.

20 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: I was late
21 to the party. Thank you Madam Chairwoman.
22 Good things come from school boards, and I
23 wanted to say as I sit here as a former school
24 board trustee, my colleague, Siela Bynoe, is a
25 former school board trustee. What's important

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2 in schools is this proactive approach where we
3 don't want to see warning signs in children,
4 we reach out. As public servants who served
5 on school boards I wanted to say thank you.
6 Because that public service mindset where
7 we're not waiting for problems to arise. We
8 are actually saying we are here to offer
9 help. It's expedited here and burgeoned
10 here. So I thank you from the bottom of my
11 heart for doing this and I am in full
12 support. Thank you Madam Chair.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I also have
14 one other question. Would this possibly be
15 available to any legislator that wanted to
16 take advantage of it?

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: This is an
18 initiative that really was birthed out of some
19 discussions I had with one of my former
20 colleagues, Legislator Fran Becker. So,
21 Legislator Becker and I started working on
22 this back I believe in 2014. And since then
23 we, saying the county, we have trained church
24 organizations, community organizations, school
25 leaders, school personnel. We have really

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2 done a good outreach and I think this will
3 only go further. I would love to sit in a
4 training. I've tried to do that. I've had
5 community groups sit in, actually do the
6 training, but I haven't been able to do it
7 yet. I think it would be great if we all sat
8 down together and had a training.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I just think
10 on a personal level I was dealing with a
11 constituent one time and you could obviously
12 see they were losing it. For a few moments I
13 thought well, the door was over there I was
14 over here. I couldn't get out. Would I
15 bounce off the window if they threw me into it
16 or fly out of the window. Being an educator,
17 I used techniques I would use in a classroom
18 situation. But obviously not specifically
19 trained and I was able to calm the person
20 down. Whatever. There are times that we are
21 put in situations that we really do need to
22 know how to de-escalate a situation. Even
23 sometimes just over a phone trying to help a
24 constituent who not you really fell like, not
25 literally --

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Or another
3 legislator.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: It would
5 certainly behoove us to do that training
6 also.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I totally
8 agree. There are different components.
9 There's a public safety component. There is
10 an adolescent youth component and then there's
11 the adult component. I suspect that most of
12 the de-escalation strategies, with the
13 exception of public safety, would be very
14 similar and I suspect we should figure out
15 which course we want to take and start setting
16 them up.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.
18 Any other legislators? Okay Mr. Budnick it's
19 your turn.

20 MR. BUDNICK: I want to commend
21 you for this outstanding step. Speaking as a
22 former county park ranger and a former Nassau
23 County assistant district attorney, there were
24 times when I had mental health crises
25 literally right there and I had to respond to

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2 them with no training. That training has to
3 be set around everybody. I had a hostage
4 crisis situation in the Nassau County District
5 Attorney Office one time. It can happen in
6 many areas that you might not think about. So
7 I would suggest spreading the training to more
8 areas.

9 We had a terrible situation when I
10 worked in the county clerk's office and a
11 person who had just had lunch with several
12 employees collapsed and died as they were
13 beginning to walk out of the building. It was
14 like a morgue throughout the entire building.

15 Meanwhile, I must suggest that
16 consideration also be given to Narcan,
17 narcotics recognition training and to first
18 aid. I'm a certified first aid member, first
19 aid certified through Nassau County CERT at
20 this point. I was previously was a park
21 ranger too. But those types of trainings can
22 save peoples lives. The mental health
23 training is critical. Narcan training is
24 critical and first aid training should go to
25 all county employees where ever it is indeed

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2 possible. My highest compliments to you. God
3 bless you one and all.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Just for point
5 of reference, I mentioned a couple of titles
6 but it's not limited to those and we have
7 spelled out, we have probably a page and a
8 half of different titles that would receive
9 the training and some of our county attorneys
10 have received the training. All of the
11 attorneys at Nassau Suffolk Law Services also
12 received the training through coordination in
13 the office. Our county attorney has also sent
14 some of his staff to receive the training. So
15 they're on board. We just need to formalize
16 the process and that's what this bill would
17 do.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.
19 If there are no other comments or questions,
20 all those in favor of clerk item 440-18
21 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? Any
22 abstentions? Then this will go on to the
23 Rules Committee.

24 The next three clerk items here are
25 595-18, 596-18 and 601-18. They are all

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2 ordinances supplemental to the annual
3 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
4 health department.

5 A motion please. Legislator
6 Gaylor. Seconded by Legislator Drucker.

7 MS. LAURAIN: Mary Ellen Laurain
8 Department of Health. Item 595-18 is a
9 supplemental appropriation. It's for our
10 bathing beach water quality monitoring and
11 notification program. It's in the amount of
12 \$55,355 and it is 100 percent funded through
13 New York State Department of Health.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
15 on 595? 596.

16 MS. LAURAIN: Item 596-18 is a
17 supplemental appropriation in the amount of
18 \$5.9 million. It's for the Ryan White
19 Program. This is 100 percent funded through
20 the United States Department of Health and
21 Human Services. Provides services to people
22 living with HIV AIDS in Nassau and Suffolk
23 County. We have an intergovernmental
24 agreement with Suffolk County and we are the
25 designated grantee.

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2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
3 from the legislators? Any public comments? .
4 601-18.

5 MS. LAURAIN: 601-18 is a
6 supplemental appropriation. It's in the
7 amount of \$70,000. It's for our child
8 fatality review team. This is 100 percent
9 funded through New York State Office of
10 Children and Family Services. This team
11 reviews all deaths of children zero to 17
12 where the death was unexplained or unexpected.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
14 or comments from the legislators? Any public
15 comment? Hearing none, all those in favor of
16 clerk items 595, 596 and 601-18 signify by
17 saying aye. Any opposed? These will move on
18 to Finance. Thank you.

19 May I have a motion to suspend the
20 rules. Moved by Legislator Kopel and seconded
21 by Legislator Lafazan.

22 We have six items on our addendum.
23 The first three I will call together. I'm
24 sorry I didn't vote on the motion. All those
25 in favor of suspending the rules signify by

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2 saying aye. Any opposed? The rules are
3 suspended.

4 Let's call clerk item 643-18,
5 644-18, 645-18 and 647-18. Motion please. By
6 Legislator McKeivitt and seconded by Legislator
7 Drucker.

8 MR. HALL: Brian Hall, Human
9 Services. The first one, 643, is \$119,025
10 from the New York State Office of Mental
11 Health. It's additional funds we received for
12 our 2018 contracts. 100 percent funded by a
13 grant.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
15 or comments from the legislators? Any public
16 comment? 644-18.

17 MR. HALL: 644-18 is a 2019 grant
18 from New York State Office of Mental Health.
19 It's for our dope mental health services for
20 \$13,600,000 and it is 100 percent grant
21 funded.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
23 or comments from the legislators? Any public
24 comment? 645-18.

25 MR. HALL: 645 is from the New

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2 York State Office of Alcohol and Substance
3 Abuse. It's our 2019 grant. It's for
4 \$23,568,000 and it's also 100 percent grant
5 funded.

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
7 or comments from the legislators? Any public
8 comment? 647-18.

9 MR. HALL: 647-18 is also a New
10 York State Office of Alcohol and Substance
11 Abuse Services grant for 2019. It's for
12 \$5,000,045. It's to run our methadone clinic
13 in 2019.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
15 or comments on 647? Any public comment?
16 Hearing none --

17 MR. HALL: There is one more.
18 648.

19 LEGISLATOR WALKER: May I have a
20 motion to include 648-18. By Legislator
21 McKevitt. Second by Legislator Drucker.

22 MR. HALL: It is also from the
23 New York State Office of Mental Health. It's
24 our 2019 grant fund for \$3,000,476 for the
25 children's mental health services and it's 100

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2 percent funded.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
4 or comments from the legislators? Any public
5 comment? Hearing none, all those in favor of
6 clerk items 643-18, 644-18, 645-18, 647-18 and
7 649-18 signify by saying aye. Any opposed?
8 Hearing none, they will move on to Finance
9 also.

10 Sorry Ms. Laurain. Clerk item
11 646-18, an ordinance supplemental to the
12 annual appropriation ordinance in connection
13 with the health department. Moved by
14 Legislator McKeivitt and seconded by Legislator
15 Lafazan.

16 MS. LAURAIN: Item 646-18 is a
17 supplemental appropriation. It's for our HIV
18 STD intervention services grant. It's in the
19 amount of \$490,000. It's funded through New
20 York State Department of Health. Staff on
21 this grant assure that people diagnosed with
22 an HIV or STD infection are receiving
23 treatment and confirm diagnosis.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
25 or comments from the legislators? Any

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2 questions or comments from the public?

3 Hearing none, all those in favor of 646-18

4 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? This

5 will also then move on to Finance.

6 That's the last order of business.

7 May I have a motion to adjourn by Legislator

8 Gaylor. Seconded by Legislator

9 DeRiggi-Whitton. All those in favor signify

10 by saying aye. Any opposed? We're going to

11 move on to Finance.

12 (Committee recessed at 5:45 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 eighth day of
December 2018

FRANK GRAY