

1

2

3

4

5

6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

7

8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

10

11 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

12 COMMITTEE

13

14 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

15 CHAIR

16

17

18 Theodore Roosevelt Building

19 1550 Franklin Avenue

20 Mineola, New York

21

22

23 July 18, 2022

24 3:36 P.M.

25

1

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

3

4 LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

5 Chair

6

7 LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

8 Vice Chair

9

10 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

11

12 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR

13

14 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15 Ranking member

16

17 LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

18

19 LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Health - 7-18-22

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

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

8 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
10 Drucker.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

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

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
15 Here.

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

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
20 Schaefer.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairwoman
23 Mazi Pilip.

24 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Chairwoman Rose

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 Marie Walker.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

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

6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: There are two
7 items on the agenda today. Clerk item 199-22
8 and clerk item 202-22. The first clerk item,
9 199-22, is an ordinance supplemental to the
10 annual appropriation ordinance in connection
11 with the health department.

12 May I have a motion please. Moved
13 by Legislator Gaylor. Seconded by Legislator
14 Drucker. How are you?

15 MS. DISIMONE: Ann DiSimone,
16 health department.

17 There are three items within this
18 199-22. The first one is a supplemental
19 appropriation in the amount of \$251,400 for
20 the childhood lead poisoning prevention
21 grant. This grant is funded through New York
22 State Department of Health. Program provides
23 comprehensive services to reduce the
24 prevalence of blood lead levels in children
25 and provide case management services and

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 environmental inspections to all children
3 identified as having elevated blood lead
4 levels.

5 Do you want me to do it
6 separately?

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Do it
8 together.

9 The second one is a supplemental
10 appropriation in the amount of \$1.7 million
11 for the WIC, Women and Infant, Children
12 Program. The WIC grant is federally funded.
13 Supplemental nutrition and education program
14 that provides vouchers for foods and infant
15 formula to women, infants and children who
16 qualify under federal financial need
17 guidelines. This program serves over 5,000
18 clients monthly at two WIC sites. One in
19 Hempstead and one in Glen Cove.

20 The third item is a supplemental
21 appropriation in the amount of \$670,611 for
22 the public health emergency preparedness
23 grant. This grant is the Centers for Disease
24 Control funded program administered by the New
25 York State Department of Health. Funds are

1 Health - 7-18-22
2 used for local public health infrastructure
3 and emergency response and preparedness.

4 As an additional note for this,
5 this is the grant that really helped us
6 facilitate the quick set up for COVID
7 vaccinations to almost 100,000 residents. Any
8 questions on any of those three items?

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I just a
10 quick question. The first that deals with the
11 issue with lead. How do we stand there? Do
12 we still have high levels?

13 MS. DISIMONE: Right now
14 currently we have 231 active childhood lead
15 cases that we're following. About 212 are
16 less than 9.9 and then the rest range in other
17 levels.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Do we try to
19 determine like the cause of this? Is it
20 something in their homes and then we can help
21 that situation in the home or whatever?

22 MS. DISIMONE: We have teams that
23 go into the home. We have a nurse, lead
24 nurse, and an environmental sanitarian that go
25 in and assess if it's paint, if it's cosmetic,

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 if it's some kind of food item to remediate
3 and to try to stop that from happening.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: My other
5 question was on the WIC Program. How do we
6 deal with that especially with the whole
7 formula issue? I know it was a disaster
8 because I have a little grandchild. You were
9 all over the place trying to find formula.
10 I'm sure that for many of the moms who, you
11 know, are in this WIC Program that really
12 became an issue for all of them.

13 MS. DISIMONE: I will double
14 check that. I think right now they're okay.
15 They've been getting formula in from other
16 areas. Doctors are giving different formulas
17 to cover but I will double check that before
18 the full leg.

19 LEGISLATOR WALKER: If we know
20 anyone who might have additional formulas, say
21 the baby finished formula, can we give that to
22 you? I know we had spots where we could drop
23 them off but I don't know if those spots are
24 still available.

25 MS. DISIMONE: I will check that

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 as well.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
4 or comments from the legislators? Legislator
5 DeRiggi-Whitton.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
7 think it's great. I'm just looking at -- all
8 of your items you're really receiving a lot of
9 money from the state. Like almost three and a
10 half million dollars by the time we add all
11 these up and that saves us money here in
12 Nassau County. So thank you for your hard
13 work.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Ann thank you
15 for being patient. I know it's hard sometimes
16 to sit here and wait when you're later.

17 MS. DISIMONE: It's all
18 interesting.

19 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.
20 All in favor of clerk item 199-22 signify by
21 saying aye. Any opposed? Any abstained?
22 That will move on to Finance.

23 Now we have clerk item 202-22,
24 which is an ordinance supplemental to the
25 annual appropriation ordinance in connection

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 with the Department of Human Services.

3 A motion please. By Legislator
4 Schaefer. Seconded by Legislator Drucker.

5 MS. ZAKI: Seema Zaki, the
6 director from the Department of Human
7 Services.

8 Clerk item 202-22 has two
9 supplemental appropriations. The first item
10 is for \$948,915 for the Office of Chemical
11 Dependency. It's 100 percent state funded to
12 that existing grant from New York State Office
13 of Addiction Services and Support. The
14 increase is for the purposes of the cost of
15 living to the subcontracted agencies. So it's
16 all 100 percent state funded.

17 And the second item for \$55,118 is
18 for Office of Youth Services. It's from New
19 York State Office for Children and Family
20 Services. It is for the purpose of youth
21 support and education and it's 100 percent
22 funded by the state.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any questions
24 or comments from the legislators? Legislator
25 DeRiggi-Whitton.

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

3 Thank you for all you do. You are extremely
4 important to us. When you're talking about
5 the item referring to chemical dependency and
6 different support services what type of
7 programs is that?

8 MS. ZAKI: These are substance
9 abuse and alcohol and substance abuse. Those
10 are the programs that are serviced under this
11 grant. This is an existing grant for the like
12 last 35 years or so. And this is just a cost
13 of living increase. COLA increase. Which
14 when we budgeted we did not have the 2022
15 stated letter with us so we budgeted less.
16 You will see, legislator, on the back you will
17 see the stated letter, showing that when we
18 budgeted we budgeted for \$21,698,030. When
19 the 2022 state aid, when we received the 2022
20 state aid funding it has actually increased by
21 \$948,000. The total is \$22,646,945 million.
22 So that's what we are requesting to increase.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
24 guess that's one good sign of inflation. We
25 get a little bit of a bigger budget with

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 this.

3 I've been talking to people,
4 legislators on both sides of the aisle. Does
5 this provide for Narcan kits and Narcan
6 training?

7 MS. ZAKI: I will get back to you
8 with that answer. But this has a vast
9 services. That is part of it.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It
11 hasn't passed yet, but we're hopeful that
12 possibly the Fentanyl strips might be now
13 included. I don't know if something like that
14 could be covered through this type of grant if
15 we do go ahead and do it. If there's a way to
16 find out if that type of funding could be
17 covered I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any other
19 questions or comments from the legislators?
20 Any public comment?

21 MS. MEREDAY: You didn't ask for
22 any public comment before you took the vote on
23 the previous item.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Afterwards I
25 realized that. I'm sorry.

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday.

3 Particularly because we are dealing with so
4 many situations in the summertime.
5 Unfortunately, we always have an uptick with
6 DWI. It just saddens me that the initial
7 Nassau County Department of Drug and Alcohol
8 Addiction, where I actually interned and
9 worked years ago, was very instrumental in
10 many programs, lifesaving programs,
11 particularly the stop DWI program itself, that
12 did a lot of work going into the summers
13 working with young people and adults with
14 regard to addressing the drinking and driving
15 issue.

16 So, I'm hoping, again, because all
17 of you get the access to the information that
18 the public does not have access to and
19 unfortunately when there's an outcry because
20 there are traumatic incidents and accidents
21 everybody wants to know what's going on. The
22 public really needs to know specifically what
23 is coming out of Nassau County as it pertains
24 to addressing the drunk driving, the buzzed
25 driving, that's impacting and affecting so

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 many communities.

3 I'm just concerned -- I understand
4 cost of living. Again, we pay the second
5 highest taxes. I get all that. But I think
6 the community and the residents, what I know
7 specifically, the programs themselves, the
8 support services and with the prior situation
9 on the health side with women and children as
10 it pertains to black woman and maternal
11 health, that is an epidemic crisis that again
12 this county does not seem to be addressing in
13 facing that. When we're talking about woman
14 of color who are dying in child birth
15 needlessly in 2022 as well as in this county.

16 So again, I'm hoping that the
17 public can get more information specifically
18 about the programs and services that can save
19 lives in these diverse and underserved
20 communities and we really need to step up our
21 efforts with stop DWI in working with the
22 police department because we have an
23 exceptional team, we have a great commissioner
24 in the police department. But again, they too
25 need the resources. They can't always be the

1 Health - 7-18-22

2 go-to and the only ones that are responsible.
3 Our elected officials, our public officials,
4 our community residents we have to come
5 together to do a better job to protect the
6 lives of our young people, our seniors and
7 residents and just try to maintain where we're
8 paying and where we're putting our money and
9 our funding and our resources. But better
10 communicate those resources and information to
11 the public. Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.
13 Any other -- Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Just
15 in a follow-up to that statement. There is a
16 lot of money sitting in the opioid settlement
17 that the county has received. We really need
18 to work on getting that out to the people that
19 need it and disbursing it in a correct way so
20 that all communities benefit from it. The
21 fact that we're sitting on it is making me --
22 I'm having a very hard time with that because
23 there are lives involved.

24 I have three teenage plus kids and
25 there are so many problems going on out

1 Health - 7-18-22
2 there. Especially right now -- I know I keep
3 bringing up the Fentanyl issue -- but that is
4 a whole new game changer. I think the
5 education has to be there. I think anything
6 we can do to protect our kids, any tools even
7 if they're not 100 percent are so necessary.

8 So, that money we have to either
9 discuss it in some type of committee with
10 input from the public or whatever we have to
11 do we have to start doing it immediately.
12 Because sitting up in one of our bank accounts
13 is not helping us. I'd like to see that
14 happen.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any other
16 comments from the legislators? Hearing none,
17 all in favor of clerk item 202-22 signify by
18 saying aye. Any opposed? Any abstained?
19 This will also move on to Finance.

20 There's no other business before
21 this committee. May I have a motion to
22 adjourn. By Legislator Schaefer. Seconded by
23 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. All in favor of
24 adjourning signify by saying aye. We are
25 adjourned and Finance is next.

1 Health - 7-18-22
2 (Committee adjourned at 3:50 p.m.)
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 Health - 7-18-22

2
3
4 CERTIFICATION

5
6
7
8 I, FRANK GRAY, a Notary
9 Public in and for the State of New
10 York, do hereby certify:

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

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
15 hereunto set my hand this 27th day of
16 August 2022

17
18
19 -----
20 FRANK GRAY
21
22
23
24
25