

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES MEETING

RICHARD NICOLELLO

PRESIDING OFFICER

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE

ROSE MARIE WALKER

CHAIRWOMAN

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, October 3, 2022

2:41 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER CHAIR
LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP VICE CHAIR
LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER
LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR
LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON RANKING
LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER
LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

MICHAEL PULITZER Clerk of the Legislature

A L S O A P P E A R E D :

ANDY PERSICH, OMB

JILL NEVIN, COMMISSIONER HUMAN SERVICES

ANN DESIMONE, HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1
2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I'd like to call
3 the Health and Social Services Committee
4 together and I'll ask the Clerk to please
5 take the roll.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair.

8 Legislator Joshua Lafzan?

9 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
11 Drucker.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here

13 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
14 Delia Deriggi-Whitton.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
17 C. William Gaylor, III.

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
20 Schaefer.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairwoman
23 Mazi Melesa Pilip.

24 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Chairwoman Rose

Marie Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
Ma'am.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.

There's two items on the agenda
today. The first is Clerk Item 304-22.
This is an ordinance supplemental to the
annual appropriation ordinance in
connection with the Department of Human
Services.

May I have a motion? Moved by
Legislator Gaylor, and seconded by
Legislator Drucker.

We have Jill Nevin to speak. I guess
we have a few people to speak.

MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon. Andy
Persich, Office of Management and Budget.
This item is appropriating \$15 million
dollars of opioid funds for uses that I'm
going to turn it over to Commissioner
Jill Nevin to give an explanation of
where the funds are going to.

COMMISSIONER NEVIN: Good afternoon.

1
2 Commissioner Jill Nevin of Human
3 Services.

4 The plan for the initial tranche of
5 funds is to appropriate \$50 million each
6 year over four years. Each year, we're
7 looking to give NUMC \$2 million to expand
8 their detox beds and program. We're
9 looking to set aside \$12.5 million for --
10 we have put out a request for Expressions
11 of Interest, with covers in great detail
12 all the areas that were legislated that
13 the opioid funds should be covering. We
14 are gonna be giving \$60,000 per year to
15 five community providers and we're gonna
16 be giving \$180,000 per year to an
17 additional community provider, which is
18 Mercy Hospital System.

19 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Each one of
20 these will be observed throughout the
21 first year and making sure they're doing
22 the right things.

23 COMMISSIONER NEVIN: Yes. So it
24 will be continually observed and
25 evaluated and adjusted if necessary.

1
2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any other
3 legislators have comments?

4 Legislator Deriggi-Whitton.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi.
6 How are you? I think that's great that
7 we're moving forward, but do you have any
8 idea when you'll have a plan for the
9 remaining \$55 million, if I'm doing the
10 math quickly.

11 COMMISSIONER NEVIN: I think it's an
12 additional 70 coming our way. We have
13 not received it. Once we do, we will be
14 working towards a plan on its usage.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.
16 We'd like to hear about that. Maybe even
17 before it comes before the Legislature,
18 if that's possible. Just because we all
19 have an interest and suggestions.

20 I don't know if you know the answer,
21 but I heard the money could be used for
22 infrastructure improvements. We
23 discussed with the jail that maybe we
24 could improve their treatment center
25 there with some of the funding. I think

1
2 there's a lot of opportunities with this.
3 I'd love to hear more about it before we
4 have to vote on it, if possible.

5 I'm glad about NCMC, but there is
6 such a rush. Lives are -- we're losing
7 young people at a very significant rate.
8 We really don't have any time to waste.
9 I would love to see NCMC get more than
10 the total that we're offering. We really
11 need one central location where people
12 and families can go for treatment. I
13 think NCMC has the space and would be the
14 perfect location. It's just that their
15 beds are occupied all the time.

16 COMMISSIONER NEVIN: We're hopeful
17 that they will respond to the Request for
18 the Expressions of Interest. There is
19 opportunity in there for them to respond.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.
21 So many other hospitals I know, Catholic
22 Healthy I know are -- all right. I know
23 that will allocate this \$15 million. I'm
24 thinking the remainder we have -- I know
25 we want to be careful, but we really have

1
2 to move it as quickly as possible.

3 All right. Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I think we also
5 need to make sure that organizations that
6 we are aware of and hospitals or whatever
7 they are are getting the paperwork and
8 responding back to you and they are in
9 the process.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: That's
11 a good idea, if I may. Maybe we can do
12 some type of social medial flyer across
13 the board if you have any recommendations
14 as to how to get the link or whatever.

15 COMMISSIONER NEVIN: Sure. Just so
16 you know, the RFEI was posted on the bid
17 board on Friday, September 23. It was
18 also posted in *Newday* and along with
19 that, we sent out an e-mail regarding the
20 announcement to all of our Executive
21 Directors.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you.

23 Any other legislators have any
24 questions or comments?

25 (Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Hearing none,
any public comment?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. All in
favor of Clerk Item 304-22, signify by
saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members of
the Health and Social Committee
respond in favor with aye.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any opposed or
abstained?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: This will move
onto Finance.

Clerk Item 319-22 is an ordinance
supplemental to the annual appropriation
ordinance in connection with the Health
Department.

Moved by Legislator Schaefer, and
seconded by Legislator Lafazan.

MS. DESIMONE: Good afternoon, Ann

1
2 DeSimone, Health Department.

3 Item 319-22 is a supplemental
4 appropriation in the amount of \$21,000
5 for the Early Intervention Grant Program.
6 This is an increase in funding by the New
7 York State Department of Health to
8 identify children within Nassau County
9 who might be eligible for early
10 intervention services due to changes in
11 the Public Health Law and elevated lead
12 levels in their blood. Any questions?

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Ann, we haven't
14 dealt with the whole time during Covid.
15 Is there a drop in those that we did
16 service and now we find we're playing
17 catch up where people are reaching out?

18 MS. DESIMONE: I can check on those
19 exact numbers, but I know because the
20 State changed the level of lead in the
21 blood, it's extremely busy in the lead
22 program.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. Thank
24 you. Any questions or comments from the
25 legislators?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Anything from
public comment?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. Hearing
none, all in favor of Clerk Item 319-22,
signify by saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members of
the Health and Social Committee
respond in favor with aye.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any opposed or
abstained?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: That will also
move onto Finance.

There is no other business before
this Committee. Motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Legislator Deriggi-Whitton.

All in favor of adjourning, signify
by saying aye.

(Whereupon, all members of

the Health and Social Committee
respond in favor with aye.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Any opposed or
abstained?

(Whereupon, no verbal
response.)

LEGISLATOR WALKER: We adjourn.
Next is Finance.

(Whereupon, Health and
Social Services Commission
adjourns, 2:49 p.m.)

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 3rd day of October, 2022

Karen Lorenzo
KAREN LORENZO

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 10.03.2022

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