THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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Neal L. Sullivan *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*

Nancy Montgomery Dist. 1
William Gouldman Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio Dist. 3
Ginny Nacerino Dist. 4
Carl L. Albano Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke Dist. 6
Joseph Castellano Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh Dist. 8
Neal L. Sullivan Dist. 9

AGENDA
HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIA AUDIO WEBINAR
PURSUANT TO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Albano

Tuesday 6:00PM May 12, 2020

(Protective Services Mtg to Immediately Follow)

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes – February 18, 2020 & April 14, 2020**
4. **Update/COVID-19 Response Measures**
   a. **Health Department Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat**
   b. **Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Ken Clair**
   c. **Safety Officer John O'Connor**
5. **Discussion/Disaster Mental Health Resources/American Red Cross/Hudson Valley Chapter Executive Director Kelly Formoso**
6. **Approval/Proclamation Request/Putnam Hospital Staff/Legislator Nacerino**
7. **Approval/Proclamation Request/Essential Workers Countywide/Legislator Nacerino**
8. **Other Business**
9. **Adjournment**

Health mtg 5.12.20

#3

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Albano

Tuesday 6:00PM February 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested that Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Gouldman, Addonizio, and Chairwoman Sayegh were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2019

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Discussion/Keep Putnam Beautiful Initiative/Legislator Ginny Nacerino

Legislator Nacerino stated every spring the topic of roadside litter is discussed. She stated this is the only time that cleaning up the litter is discussed. She stated in the past the Towns and County partnered in "cleanup days" and provided gloves and other materials. She stated many community groups participated. She stated in an effort to maintain a clean environment in Putnam County, she believes an ongoing campaign to clean up litter would be beneficial instead of just focusing on it in the springtime. She stated the intention is not to override any town cleanup events, but to unify the endeavor. She stated she would like to reinstate the "Keep Putnam Beautiful" slogan as well as a campaign that would establish countywide coordinated efforts between the County, Towns, and Villages to alleviate the issue of litter year-round. She stated she reached out to Director of Environmental Services Shawn Rogan to share this idea. She stated she also reached out to County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Solid Waste Program Coordinator Jane Meunier. She stated they all have been supportive. She stated Director of Tourism Tracey Walsh will also play a part in this initiative. She stated she respectfully requests the establishment of the Keep Putnam Beautiful Initiative and for a proclamation declaring April as "Keep Putnam Beautiful Month."

Director Rogan stated we are noticing more and more roadside litter and a renewed energy and emphasis will help combat litter. He stated this program can act as an education liaison to the towns and villages. He stated this is probably the beginning of a larger initiative.

Solid Waste Program Coordinator Meunier stated it is sad that this program went by the wayside but bringing it up again is exciting. She stated roadside cleanup is a serious issue. She stated there is a focus on teaching municipalities to have safe cleanup for the community. She stated businesses and other community organizations can be involved. She stated the County is offering their services in any way to help.

Director of Environmental Services Rogan stated it would be great partnership with tourism, which relies on the beauty of Putnam County.

Director Walsh stated she will work with the team and will promote this initiative. She stated she will take before and after pictures of the cleanup.

Director of Environmental Services Rogan stated there are already some community groups that are cleaning up but their efforts are going unnoticed. He stated collaboration can build additional awareness, even if it is just people taking more responsibility. He stated Legislator Nacerino's timing with this is perfect and added that Earth Day is in April. He stated there is no money attached to this initiative and will rely on in-house talent of those involved.

Legislator Addonizio noted the Town of Kent has a dedicated cleanup day and she believes all towns do. She questioned how this program would collaborate with the towns to make it more effective.

Director of Environmental Services Rogan stated they are considering a mailing packet. He stated each Legislator can be an advocate for their districts to make sure people know about it.

Solid Waste Program Coordinator Meunier stated social media is a great way to make everyone aware and bring the smaller organizations together.

Legislator Albano stated this is a great idea and there needs to be a focus on preventing littering as well, such as advertising. He stated he used to walk on Hill and Dale Road weekly and was able to fill up a garbage bag each week. He stated Legislator Gouldman brought up at a past Health Committee meeting that the Town of Yorktown has cameras to combat littering.

Director of Environmental Services Rogan stated part of the campaign needs to include asking people to call the police if they see people littering. He stated they also want to highlight the existing work being done by PARC, in partnership with the County. He stated their work is fantastic.

Legislator Sayegh clarified the County would play more of a promotional and educational role.

Solid Waste Program Coordinator Meunier stated it is a coordinated effort. She went over the potential options for coordinating the cleanup. She stated the County will make sure everything will go well.

Legislator Montgomery stated she loved this program when it was first active. She stated she has reservations with requiring anything of the towns because they are already stressed for time, money, and resources. She stated the e-waste matter needs to be figured out, because it used to be something that the County handled but does not anymore. She stated the Climate Smart Communities Program could help with this initiative and added that the County has not done anything with the Climate Smart Program. She read a list of Climate Smart action items pertaining to this.

Legislator Albano stated a lot has been done with Climate Smart and green energy initiatives in Putnam County.

Legislator Montgomery suggested reporting the steps that the County is taking to the State, so that the County can receive credit.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated in regards to Climate Smart, only the resolution was required, there was no time limit on the action items. She stated the County is not required to have a Climate Smart Committee or Coordinator, but the County has both. She stated the grants are still available to be applied for by the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated the Keep Putnam Beautiful Initiative is not an attempt to take away from what the Towns and Villages are already doing. She stated this is merely about bringing everyone together for the same purpose. She reiterated that there would be no monetary requirement from the municipalities. She stated she is just hoping that the County can adopt this initiative so that it can move forward. She stated she would also like a proclamation in conjunction with Earth Day.

Erin Crowley, resident of District 9, suggested getting the municipalities together to utilize the probation program for manpower via community service mandates.

Legislator Addonizio stated there is a program for incarcerated work.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is hoping this is based on volunteer work.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that suggestion is something for the courts to decide.

Solid Waste Program Coordinator Meunier stated students who need community service hours to graduate can also partake.

Director Walsh stated community service is vitally important, but that not is what this program is promoting. She stated this is about promoting people who are out helping make Putnam beautiful without having to be out there.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is a great discussion.

Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated community Rotaries are eager to help beautify the community.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it is great to take pride in where you live.

Legislator Nacerino requested approving the reinstatement of the program and the proclamation.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if there is verbiage for the proclamation

Legislator Nacerino stated it is being worked on.

Solid Waste Program Coordinator Meunier suggested there be a meeting with key stakeholders before moving forward with the proclamation.

Chairwoman Sayegh state something can be approved in concept.

Legislator Nacerino questioned Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo if we can move forward with the reinstatement.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated technically there is no need for reinstatement because it is not a funded program, it is a slogan, and the Administration is going to be doing the work.

Ms. Crowley questioned if there is a budget that goes with this.

Legislator Nacerino stated no there is not.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move forward in concept; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #5 - FYI/New York State Ban on Plastic Bags

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she would like to make sure that everyone is aware that the State ban on plastic bags goes into effect on March 1st. She stated retailers can provide paper bags, but it is up to the store if they want to charge for them. She stated some exceptions to this are bags for take-out food, bags for meat and produce, garment bags at dry cleaners, and bags to carry out pharmaceuticals. She stated stores are also required to have plastic bag recycling receptacles. She asked that everyone recycle their plastic bags properly, after reusing them.

Legislator Albano stated we need to be conscious of this issue because we do not realize how many plastic bags we throw away. He stated this is a great step for the future.

Item #6 - Presentation/Search for Change/Housing Project and Continuing Efforts to Increase Supply of Supportive and Affordable Housing in Putnam County/CEO Ashley Brody

Chairwoman Sayegh introduced Ashley Brody, CEO of Search for Change.

Mr. Brody gave the attached PowerPoint presentation. He stated Search for Change has plans to address the lack of affordable and supportive housing, which has been a longstanding issue in the community. He stated Putnam is not alone in the state with its shortage. He stated fair market rents are higher in Putnam County than anywhere in the State. He stated Search for Change has operated in Putnam County for close to 40 years. He stated Search for Change has diversified over the years to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable members of the community. He stated Putnam County is very unique with its housing stock. He stated it is very difficult to find viable land for developing housing, especially considering the watershed restrictions. He stated Search for Change will keep the Legislature apprised of information on the development plan.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the grant that was received for 50 housing units must all be in one (1) space, or can they be separated.

Mr. Brody stated it could conceivably be separate properties. He stated it would be more cost effective to have one (1) site.

Legislator Addonizio stated it could be easier to find multiple smaller parcels, rather than one (1) large one (1). She questioned how much the grant was for.

Mr. Brody stated it is a services and operating reward to administer the property once it is in place. He stated it is about $25,000 per year and per person, for a 50 person housing unit.

Legislator Addonizio questioned how many years it is for.

Mr. Brody stated it is a five (5) year contract but it can be renewed as long as the housing exists.

Legislator Addonizio questioned how Search for Change is looking for a property.

Mr. Brody stated they have a realtor and a development partner.

Legislator Albano stated it seems like a close to impossible task considering the zoning restrictions in this area. He stated there may need to be some creativity with the proposal.

Mr. Brody stated that is very true and is why Search for Change has been looking for suitable land since 2016.

Legislator Montgomery requested clarification on the need analysis.

Mr. Brody stated multiple analyses indicated there is a shortage of affordable and supportive housing.

Legislator Montgomery stated if a certain threshold is met during the 2020 Census, affordable housing will be mandated. She stated she knows properties with water and sewer are preferred. She questioned if there is a way to move forward without those preferences.

Mr. Brody stated this has been a topic of discussion between stakeholders. He stated having water and sewer is preferred.

Legislator Montgomery requested clarification on the makeup of the community within the housing project.

Mr. Brody stated it would be about 50% people with special needs and about 50% who fall under certain income standards.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the property would be subject to taxes.

Mr. Brody stated there are a few ways this could be handled. He stated typically there is a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). He stated their development partner will help discuss that with the community so they are not taking a viable property off the tax rolls. He stated with that said, as a non-profit, they are limited in the tax burden they are able to take on.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if Search for Change manages the housing units or if there is a management company.

Mr. Brody stated in the smaller facilities they manage it, but with a facility this large, they would bring in a management company to ensure it is managed properly.

Social Services Commissioner Michael Piazza stated this project is a big part of addressing the needs of the community. He stated he would like to acknowledge the great work that Mr. Brody does.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated if someone loses their home, there are very few, if any options, in Putnam County. She stated she believes these people need to be taken care of.

Ms. Crowley questioned if there is Section 8 housing in Putnam County.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated there is.

Ms. Crowley questioned if that would be a part of this project.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it is different.

Item #7 - Presentation/2020 4-Year Plan/Office for Senior Resources/Director Michael Cunningham

Chairwoman Sayegh began by offering her condolences to Office for Senior Resources (OSR) Director Michael Cunningham for the passing of his mother.

Director Cunningham thanked Chairwoman Sayegh for her thoughts. He went on to state that the State requires OSR to provide a four (4) year plan, per the Older Americans Act. He stated OSR also provides an annual update to the plan. He stated 2020 starts a new four (4) year cycle. He stated there is a particular plan for developing business acumen in recognition of what agencies like OSR do. He stated there is a growing aging population, particularly with the baby boomer generation. He stated there needs to be integration between the healthcare system and the social system. He stated hospitals are being pushed to make sure there are not repeated hospitalizations. He stated this business acumen initiative will change the way OSR operates. He stated OSR operates mainly with grants, and they report back with what they are able to provide with those grants, but it does not show the full effect. He stated the main objective is to ensure better health outcomes for older New Yorkers.

OSR Coordinator of Services Doreen Crane stated discharge planning has been taken away by HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act).

Director Cunningham stated even with the growing aging population, there will not be much more funding provided. He stated healthcare providers will be incentivized. He stated OSR will start billing, which they have never done before.

OSR Fiscal Manager Terry Wolf stated they have been analyzing costs and the number of unduplicated clients.

Director Cunningham stated OSR will identify services to essentially market.

Coordinator of Services Crane stated they have always had the programs in place, they are now proving that they are at a point where OSR can get reimbursed for the programs.

Director Cunningham stated part of this is informing the residents. He stated OSR is still unsure of how the future will play out. He stated they will partner with the Social Services and Health Departments. He stated this is just the beginning of exploring the possibilities. He stated there will be costs, but insurance companies will reimburse, so there will be revenue. He stated this can help with handling future growth in Putnam County.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if this means OSR will be moving only to billing instead of grants.

Director Cunningham stated no, it will be both. He stated the current grant funding is not being threatened, but there may not be more available. He stated if this all works out, it will result in more revenue and a more healthy senior population.

Legislator Nacerino questioned how HIPAA could be circumvented to help with discharge planning.

Coordinator of Services Crane stated OSR has been in contact with hospitals. She stated this matter will have to be decided at the top of the food chain.

Director Cunningham stated hospitals have become more corporate and more risk averse over the years. He stated OSR is looking to build relationships with the hospitals. He stated they will also look to partner with other counties.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if the goal is that preventative measures will be taken to ensure patients are not consistently revisiting hospitals.

Director Cunningham stated that is the goal. He stated there is great cost for each visit.

Legislator Nacerino stated she hopes that it works out.

Ms. Crowley stated she had a social worker after she gave birth to triplets and the social worker asked if she wanted an at-home nurse. She questioned if something like this can be done for seniors.

Director Cunningham stated they are looking into similar programs, but not the nursing side of it. He stated it is more about activities and social aspects. He stated the medical system needs to be aware of the needs of the population. He stated OSR will work on building that collaboration.

Item #8 - Discussion/Coronavirus Update/Commissioner of Health Dr. Nesheiwat

Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat provided the attached PowerPoint presentation. He stated he has been on dozens of conference calls over the past two (2) weeks. He stated there are usually 10,000 travelers from China per day in the United States, but it is now down to 1,000. He stated the symptoms resemble the flu, so if someone has not travelled from China, it is most likely the flu. He suggested people get flu shots, if they have not already. He stated as of today, all New York State labs are able to process tests, which will lead to quicker turn-around time. He stated there are active investigations into a vaccine. He stated he believes it will be about a month to three (3) months until there is a vaccine. He commended the staff at the Putnam County Health Department (PCDOH) for doing a tremendous job. He stated there are some people in Putnam County who are now being monitored. He stated the PCDOH has reached out to spaces in the county that could potentially be used for additional hospital space.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned how the PCDOH learns of people who are coming into the county from China.

Commissioner Nesheiwat stated everyone who comes into the country from China is screened at the airports. He stated if someone is allowed to continue their travel, the New York State Health Department and the local County Health Department are notified. He stated the PCDOH immediately contacts the person and sets parameters for a 14 day isolation period.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Commissioner Nesheiwat for this presentation. She stated she hopes to bridge the gaps of communication.

Commissioner Nesheiwat stated the medical community shares information, even globally, and he is proud of that. He stated he shares information with neighboring municipalities.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is just hoping the communication can be improved. She stated she would like better communication for protocols regarding response measures. She questioned if there is a known shortage of supplies such as masks.

Commissioner Nesheiwat stated there is no shortage of supplies.

Legislator Castellano stated what is concerning about COVID-19 is the medical workers in China who contracted the virus.

Commissioner Nesheiwat stated he did not provide the statistics from China, because those numbers cannot be validated. He stated fortunately, the cases in the United States have been mild, and only two (2) of the 15 cases were from person to person transmission. He provided additional documentation.

Legislator Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Chairwoman Sayegh. All in favor.

Eric Gross, reporter, clarified that there are two (2) people in Putnam County in isolation.

Commissioner Nesheiwat confirmed and added that they have been very cooperative. He stated they are asymptomatic.

Director of Tourism Tracey Walsh questioned if they came from mainland China or Hubei province.

Commissioner Nesheiwat stated they came from mainland China and are being monitored for any symptoms. He stated the only people allowed into the country right now from China are citizens or family members.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Commissioner Nesheiwat for all this information.

Item #9 - Approval/Fund Transfer 19T480/Health Department/Reallocate Funds to Cover 2019 Placements

Social Services Commissioner Michael Piazza stated these are placements made by the school district. He stated the County is responsible for a share of the cost. He stated there were more placements than originally planned for so more funding is needed.

Legislator Albano made a motion to move Fund Transfer 19T40 to the Audit and Administration Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #10 - Approval/Memorialization/Clara's Law/Requiring Health Care Facilities to Report Incidents of Sexual Offense to the State Departments of Health and Education

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the there is no such law like this in the State right now.

Legislator Montgomery stated a constituent came to her regarding this issue because she was affected by it. She requested that this memorialization be passed so the State can be aware of where Putnam stands. She stated she would like this memorialization to include mental health facilities.

Legislator Addonizio stated this was named after Clara Mae Bowman, who was sexually abused by an intensive care unit nurse in Florida. She stated she wants to send a strong message to the State. She stated we must hold all abusers responsible.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the Memorialization of Clara's Law to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #11 - Approval/Resolution Calling on the Governor and New York State Legislature to Preserve the Zero Percent Medicaid Growth Cap

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Medicaid is jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments. She stated New York is one of the few states that requires counties to contribute to the funding. She stated the Stated splits its cost with the County. She stated the Medicaid program has grown tremendously in New York State and is very complex. She stated New York's Medicaid program is only slightly smaller than California's, with half the population. She stated the local share of Medicaid is $7.6 billion, which is higher than the State contribution of 43 states. She stated the State has expanded Medicaid eligibility and enrollment has increased almost 70%. She stated the State agreed to cap the growth. She stated the cap worked, and property taxes have only risen at or below the rate of inflation. She stated County Executive MaryEllen Odell also sent a memo regarding this matter and it is included in the backup material. She stated the County has more than doubled its Medicaid recipients since 2015, all due to mandates by New York State. She added that the cost to Putnam County rose by $4 million from 2018 to 2019. She stated counties do not have the ability to control the Medicaid program growth.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move Approval/Resolution Calling on the Governor and New York State Legislature to Preserve the Zero Percent Medicaid Growth Cap to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #12 - Other Business – None.

Item #13 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:03 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.

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TO BE HELD IN THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318
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Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Albano

Tuesday 6:00PM February 18, 2020

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2019**
4. **Discussion/Keep Putnam Beautiful Initiative/Legislator Ginny Nacerino**
5. **FYI/New York State Ban on Plastic Bags**
6. **Presentation/Search for Change/Housing Project and Continuing Efforts to Increase Supply of Supportive and Affordable Housing in Putnam County/CEO Ashley Brody**
7. **Presentation/2020 4-Year Plan/Office for Senior Resources/Director Michael Cunningham**
8. **Discussion/Coronavirus Update/Commissioner of Health Dr. Nesheiwat**
9. **Approval/Fund Transfer 19T480/Health Department/Reallocate Funds to Cover 2019 Placements**
10. **Approval/Memorialization/Clara's Law/Requiring Health Care Facilities to Report Incidents of Sexual Offense to the State Departments of Health and Education**
11. **Approval/Resolution Calling on the Governor and New York State Legislature to Preserve the Zero Percent Medicaid Growth Cap**
12. **Other Business**
13. **Adjournment**

Health Mtg
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#3

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIA AUDIO WEBINAR
PURSUANT TO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Albano

Tuesday **6:00PM** **April 14, 2020**

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:00 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Members Addonizio, Albano, and Chairwoman Sayegh were present. Also present via audio webinar were Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Nacerino, Jonke, Castellano, and Sullivan as well as Legislative Council Firriolo

Item #3 - Update/COVID-19 Response Measures

Chairwoman Sayegh read the following statement from County Executive MaryEllen Odell: *"Putnam County has lost one of its own, Dispatcher 427, Robert "Robbie" Shannon. Robbie was also past Chief and life member of the Lake Carmel Fire Department. Robbie was known best for being a leader to the youth of his department, especially the Lake Carmel Explorers. He was an advocate for fire safety, not just to school children, but to his community. Robbie was instrumental in our Ready Fox Program by visiting many classrooms and teaching children all about 911. You would often see him giving a tour of our 911 center to a fire department or boy scout troop. Chief Shannon is the true meaning of service above self. This sudden and unexpected loss will be felt far and wide across our community. Robert will be missed by all who knew him. We ask that you keep his family, friends, the dispatchers, and the Lake Carmel Fire Department in your thoughts and prayers."*

Chairwoman Sayegh stated at this time she would offer a moment of silence for Robert Shannon and all those who have passed from the COVID-19 pandemic. She thanked the healthcare workers who are fighting this pandemic on the front lines. She stated the Row of Honor has been placed along the shorelines of Lake Glenoidal to honor health care workers and first responders who are putting themselves as risk to fight the COVID-19 outbreak. She stated on Memorial Day the traditional three (3) rows of flags will be present to honor our Veterans.

a. Health Department Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat

Commissioner of the Health Department Dr. Michael Nesheiwat thanked the Committee for the opportunity to discuss the pandemic we are facing. He also thanked the Legislators for their support as well as all Elected Officials including Senators, County Executive Odell, Town Supervisors, and Village Mayors. He also thanked the residents of Putnam County for their cooperation and understanding during these times. He stated the Health Department has been working very hard, long hours, including weekends. He stated he is very proud of the way the Health Department staff has stepped up to the plate to do an outstanding job during this time. He stated the Health Department is involved in multiple conference calls on a daily basis, including calls with the Putnam County Incident Command Support Staff, Town Supervisors and Village

Mayors, the School Superintendents, CDC (Centers for Disease Control), Governor's Conference, and NYSACHO (New York State Association of County Health Officials). He stated as of this morning, Putnam County has a total of 634 positive COVID-19 cases. He stated that number is limited by the amount of tests conducted in Putnam County and it is expected that with more testing the numbers would increase. He stated 1,861 individuals has been tested in Putnam County, 27% of those individuals have tested positive. He stated Putnam County has been awarded additional funding in the amount of $173,763 through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant, which will go toward expenditures related to the outbreak of COVID-19. He stated he is happy to address questions anyone may have.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Dr. Nesheiwat. She stated County Executive Odell has been advocating for a testing center within Putnam County. She questioned if this is moving forward and if so, when it is expected to be in operation, and if more testing will be done at that point. She stated she is aware that four (4) testing days have been held in the County so far.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated that is correct. He stated the first three (3) testing days were with testing kits obtained through local resources, while the fourth testing day was with 100 testing kits received from New York State (NYS), and 96 tests were given that day. He stated those testing kits were obtained through a collaborative effort of Elected Officials, including County Executive Odell. He stated he spoke with NYS and they informed him that they do not have the resources to open a drive-through clinic on the State level. He stated he was informed today that County Executive Odell was able to obtain another 30 test kits. He stated Nursing Supervisor Kathy Percacciolo is present and he would like her to go into more detail in regards to other centers available that are not affiliated with the County.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated she is in contact with NYS daily to advocate for more test kits for Putnam County residents. She stated when currently, when residents calls inquiring about testing they have several recommendations. She stated one is to refer them to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) website where they can do a self-assessment and sign up for testing. She stated State testing sites are located at Bear Mountain State Park, Anthony Wayne State Park, and in New Rochelle. She stated Nuvance also has some testing site locations nearby, one is in Danbury, one is in Ulster County, and one is at Dutchess Stadium. She reiterated that there is no testing site in Putnam County and NYS does not intend on establishing one here. She stated they did ask Nuvance about setting up a site in Putnam, however they do not have the staff for it. She stated if the Health Department is able to obtain kits, small clinics can be held where about 100 people can be tested within two (2) hours. She stated the results are usually back within two (2) days because they go through the State lab. She stated right now, that is the only way for residents to get tested in the County.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated the only other way a resident could get tested through Nuvance is if they go to their private medical doctor and get a prescription. He stated with the prescription, the patient can contact Nuvance and if they meet the criteria, they would be able to be tested. He stated in that instance, he hopes the data comes back to Putnam County.

Legislator Addonizio questioned how many positive tests there were during the fourth testing day when 96 residents were tested utilizing the test kits from NYS.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated about 27% were positive.

Chairwoman Sayegh requested clarification on how to get an appointment at a State testing site.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated the individual can go to the NYSDOH website to assess their situation and if they meet certain criteria, they will be referred to one of the test locations. He stated they could also go to their private doctor and get a prescription to go to a Nuvance testing site. He stated if they are Putnam residents, the results will eventually come back to the Department of Health to be added to the statistics.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated an individual cannot get tested just because they want to; they must be symptomatic. She stated currently, healthcare workers and first responders are being prioritized.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated someone may not be symptomatic should still quarantine for the recommended 14 days if they have been in contact with an individual who has tested positive.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if Open Door is conducting tests.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated minimal testing is being done at Open Door and it is not a location where anyone can go to be tested.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there any private entities where testing kits can be purchased by the County.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated they have been trying to acquire kits by any way possible. He stated the Bureau of Emergency Services is reliant on the State. He stated Westchester County provided some test kits to Putnam County. He stated there are many vendors out there trying to sell testing kits that cannot be validated and have not been approved by the FDA (Food & Drug Administration). He stated the State and Federal governments are trying to find rapid testing and other modalities, but unfortunately there is limited availability.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated BioReference is a company the County used to contract with in the past and they are trying to reach out to them for test kits and figure out any costs associated with that. She stated this takes some time and is unaware at this point if that will come to fruition.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated unfortunately, this is not a local problem, it is a National problem. He stated FEMA is competing against counties and states for the same products, rather than having one agency purchase and distribute.

Legislator Montgomery thanked the Health Department for fighting to obtain more test kits because that is some of the most important feedback she has received from constituents. She questioned if the Health Department is concerned about getting results from tests on Putnam

County residents that are done outside of the County, since there is more testing being done out of the County than in.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated the County is eventually receiving the results. She stated when the County held the testing clinics, the tests were driven to the State lab the next day and the results were back the following day. She stated results from other testing sites can take anywhere from three (3) days to three (3) weeks to come back to the County. She stated the delay has been caused by the testing sites not collecting phone numbers or addresses. She stated when the County receives a positive result, the individual is contacted, although most of the time they have already been contacted by their physician. She stated in an effort to stop the spread, they make sure contacts of the individual who tested positive are quarantined.

Legislator Montgomery stated she had a few more questions.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she would have all Legislators speak once and circle back to any that have further questions or comments.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Dr. Nesheiwat, Supervising Nurse Percacciolo and the Health Department for the dedication and extensive work they are putting in for the people of Putnam County. He thanked all departments who are working hard to make sure the residents of Putnam are being taken care of. He questioned what the statistics are related to Putnam Hospital Center (PHC) and requested an update on what they are doing.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated he is in communication with President of PHC Peter Kelly regularly. He stated as of this morning, there are 26 positive COVID-19 patients in PHC and there are four (4) PUIs (patients under investigation), making a total of 30 patients. He stated of the 30 patients, three (3) are on ventilators and there are ventilators on standby ready to be used. He stated there have been a total of 30 COVID-19 related deaths in Putnam County, two (2) within the last 24 hours. He stated PHC has been working very closely with the Health Department. He stated PHC expanded their bed capacity from 164 to 254. He stated they are working closely with Nuvance and the Danbury testing center. He stated some patients have also been transferred to Danbury Hospital, their sister hospital. He stated local hospitals are regulated by the State Health Department. He stated PHC is a good ally and a good health partner.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated they speak with the infection control nurse at PHC daily, which provides firsthand knowledge of the status of Putnam residents who are hospitalized there. She stated working with Nuvance set up a system between PHC, Vassar Hospital, and Danbury Hospital and the most critical patients are being transferred to Danbury hospital because they have ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) machines. She stated PHC is also taking patients in from other hospitals; they are doing a tradeoff so the patients can receive the care they most need.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo. He stated he is grateful for the doctors and nurses at PHC and the tremendous work being done. He stated he is glad that PHC is part of Nuvance, which has connected us to great resources.

Legislator Nacerino also thanked the Health Department, all essential workers, and employees of PHC for their dedication and hard work during these unprecedented times. She questioned how to get a true number when the statistics are released each day since results from some testing sites take longer than others to come back to the County. She questioned when or how close we can get to knowing the actual number.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated the numbers provided are limited to the amount of tests that can be conducted in Putnam County, and they are lower than expected. He stated the results from tests done on County residents outside of the County will be received, but there is a lag.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated because this is a communicable disease investigation there are protocols that must be followed. She stated there is an electronic reporting system that is received each morning. She stated these reports include negative results, therefore they need to be separated and the positive cases need to be contacted and an in depth investigation begins. She stated a nurse will call the person to inform them they have tested positive and they then have a five (5) page questionnaire to go through with them, which is then electronically submitted to the State laboratory system and it is officially counted as a case. She stated the Health Department is working diligently to get through as many reports as possible, and they are limited by the number of hours they can work. She stated there is no way to have accurate numbers on a daily basis.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated the numbers are probably higher than what is being reported, which is why it is important to keep reminding people to take precautions including washing hands with soap and water, cover your cough with a tissue and disposing of that properly, and wearing a mask in public.

Legislator Nacerino thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo for the comprehensive work they are doing on a daily basis. She stated it is important for the public to realize the numbers being put out are lower than the actuals and that maintaining the precautionary measures being suggested remains important.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated that is correct. She stated when they become aware of a positive case, they contact the individual and ask them about who they live with, and then forms needs to be filled out on anyone they live with. She stated educational materials about quarantine are also sent to all residents of the home. She stated they are then added to a monitoring list. She stated the process can take quite a bit of time.

Legislator Nacerino thanked the Health Department again and stated it is unbelievable what the workers are getting done.

Legislator Jonke thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo for the work being done on behalf of the residents of Putnam County.

Legislator Castellano thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo for their hard work. He questioned if the total number of positive cases, which is currently 630, includes those who have recovered.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated the positive cases being reported are laboratory positive cases that the Health Department has investigated. She stated they are cautious to use the term "recovery". She stated the rule of thumb is from the date the individual tests positive, they have seven (7) days to be on quarantine and they can only come off quarantine when they have been fever free for 72 hours without the use of medication and their symptoms are improving. She stated at that point, the individual is permitted to go back to work but they must wear a mask. She stated they still may not be fully recovered because the cough or fatigue can last a long time. She stated in terms of the recovery number, they prefer the use the term "end of quarantine".

Dr. Nesheiwat stated a primary contact person is a person who was in contact with a positive patient and does not have symptoms; they would go on a 14 day quarantine.

Legislator Gouldman stated it was mentioned earlier that it could take up to three (3) weeks for a test result to come back. He questioned if the patient is also waiting all that time, or if it is just for the information to get back to the County.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated they hope that if the testing was prescribed through a private medical doctor, that the doctor would receive the result and contact the patient. He stated there was a case in a neighboring county where a patient had a test and was notified 14 days later. He stated fortunately, the patient quarantined on their own. He stated by the time the patient was contacted about their positive test result, they were already done with their quarantine. He stated it is not a perfect system.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated when a person is being tested, they should be told to remain on quarantine until their results come back.

Legislator Montgomery stated currently, it seems the testing process leaves a lot of room for error. She questioned how the Legislators can advocate for a better process. She stated there are many cases where one (1) family member tests positive and then the rest of their family comes down with the virus, but they do not get tested and are therefore not included in the numbers.

Nursing Supervisory Percacciolo stated those cases are called presumptive positive. She stated they are assumed positive and given quarantine orders. She stated they are also instructed to contact their physician if their symptoms worsen. She stated unfortunately there is no easy answer because the system is overwhelmed.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the presumed positive cases are included in the positive statistics. She stated there are many cases like this. She offered to advocate to help the process and stated she has been in contact with Sandra Iberger from St. Christopher's Inn as well as Nuvance. She stated Nuvance has a list that patients can use to establish virtual visits with a physician without being in their system. She stated there may be a better way to track this and it is frightening how many people may be walking around with the virus.

Dr. Nesheiwat thanked Legislator Montgomery for her support. He stated an important message to disseminate is to push information about the precautions such as handwashing, wearing a

mask, and staying away from those who are sick. He recommended checking in on elderly family members, neighbors, and friends, because along with this pandemic many people are experiencing anxiety and depression, which is very concerning.

Legislator Sullivan questioned what the recovery numbers are and how many discharges there have been from the hospital. He stated it is important for people to realize that there are many people who are getting better and leaving the hospital. He questioned if it is possible to release these numbers.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated the County is not privy to the information regarding discharges unless Putnam Hospital Center releases that information. He stated the recovery, nationally, is 80%, which is very high. He stated he would also like to discuss some of the treatment. He stated there are many organizations working on the use of antiviral medications as well as a vaccine. He stated he is hoping the vaccine will be ready in time to be incorporated with next season's flu vaccine.

Legislator Albano stated he and his family had this virus and he is happy to report everyone is now doing well. He stated there are many things that are unable to be controlled. He thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo for the tremendous work they are doing. He stated the fact that he is not asking many questions is not because he is not concerned, but because he has learned so much having gone through the virus himself. He stated he believes this discussion has brought up many important points.

Legislator Montgomery stated this is the first opportunity the Legislature has had to discuss COVID-19 in Committee since the County confirmed its first positive case. She questioned if it is possible to obtain the number of the presumptive positive cases.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated there is no way to get that number as they do not have a way to track it, especially those who do not get tested or are asymptomatic.

Legislator Montgomery requested clarification on the statement made earlier that they Health Department can only work so many hours. She questioned if the new overtime policy affected this.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated the Health Department received some additional funding through a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant in the amount of $173,163. He stated so far, $69,800 of that has been spent; $52,800 on overtime, $5,000 for the 211 phone service, and $9,000 for advertising. He stated in the beginning, there was a lot of work to be done up front and they now have better control over that and have established a system where work is being done more efficiently, which is cutting down overtime. He stated this pandemic is a new terrain of challenges and issues to deal with. He stated the budget may be a concern, but it is fortunate that they are receiving grant funding to help control that.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is not questioning the use of overtime. She stated she wants to make sure the policy is not keeping the Health Department from doing the necessary work.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated he is not familiar with the policy Legislator Montgomery is referring to.

Legislator Montgomery stated before passing the policy she sent a request to the County Executive to seek input from Department Heads.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this discussion is not about the overtime policy and she would like to stay on track.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to know if the overtime policy is affecting their need to have appropriate staffing and if so what can be done to make sure they have proper staffing.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated he believes the Health Department is currently doing well in regards to their overtime budget. He stated although he directly is not familiar with the policy, the Commissioner of Finance is well aware of it and it is his responsibility to monitor that and keep departments within the guidelines. He stated they were fortunate to receive additional funding. He stated if it comes to a point where more funding is needed, he will come to the Legislature to make that request. He stated they are currently doing well in terms of the budget and getting their work done.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated when nurses need to work overtime, she speaks up. She stated in the beginning this was new to them and they now have a better system of how assignments are completed. She stated the nursing staff cannot work 10 or 12 hour days seven (7) days a week. She stated in an effort to take some stress off the nursing staff they first cut out Sundays which was a huge help. She stated they are managing right now, but it is important not to exhaust themselves out of the system.

Legislator Montgomery agreed. She stated her intention is to make sure the Health Department is supported. She stated this is taking a toll on the Health Department and she wants to make sure there is a plan in place for the possibility of staff becoming ill or being overworked. She stated the number of cases is rising and she questioned if a plan is in place and how the Legislature can help. She stated the grant is going to run out eventually and stated perhaps the answer is to create more jobs. She questioned if there are budgetary items that need to be addressed now.

Dr. Nesheiwat thanked Legislator Montgomery for her support. He stated he is glad this has been brought up because they do have the essential staff working daily, but they do have a plan in place. He stated if needed, non-essential employees are being brought in. He stated they have also tapped into resources from the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and brought in four (4) nurses to help. He stated they are also monitoring the needs of the essential staff. He stated they began rotating staff, giving nurses a day off during the week. He stated he appreciates Legislator Montgomery's concern. He stated the staff is doing a great job and stepping up to the plate. He stated if additional funding becomes necessary, he will come to the Legislature to make that request. He stated currently, it is manageable.

Legislator Montgomery stated her constituents have asked questions pertaining to testing, numbers, and sustainability of the departments involved and she appreciates advice on what answers she can provide to them. She stated she would like to be included in the daily briefing calls, so she has information to provide her constituents when the questions are raised. She stated she represents a whole district and her job is to answer the questions they have, rather than them posing the question to the department directly. She stated it would be helpful for her to have this information on a daily basis.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned where constituents can go to get this information. She stated she is aware that numbers are posted each day on the Putnam County website, the CDC is also a great place to get information, and the State Department of Health website has information as well.

Legislator Montgomery stated that is information people already have.

Legislator Nacerino stated this information will allow Legislators to guide their constituents to the websites accordingly. She stated the health and welfare of the Health Department workers is paramount and she is less concerned with violating the overtime policy than she is with the possibility of the employees being exhausted and being able to do their jobs.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the overtime policy referred to by Legislator Montgomery is the policy to record overtime, not limit overtime therefore the Health Department is within their rights to utilize whatever resources necessary. She stated a question was received via email from a constituent, Ann Fanizzi of Carmel that she would like to read:
"Viewing the daily numbers of incidence of virus in Putnam County, I have become increasingly troubled by the seemingly disproportionate numbers in relation to population with respect to the Towns of Southeast, Kent and Carmel. As I know you are more than aware, there has been increasing concern expressed by Governor, Dr. Fauci and President Trump and confirmed by the data from NYC that members of minority communities are experiencing incidence and death rates in excess of that of the general population. Underlying health conditions compounded by poverty rates appear to be factors. Putnam County is not isolated from this issue with 14% of its population Hispanic and another 2% African American and a poverty rate approximating 5%. Certainly the appeals from CAP, the involvement of churches in housing the homeless, food banks et al attest to the necessity for attention to this matter. As of this date, ethnic breakdown of incidence of the virus and death rates among our minority population have not been published. This is a matter that should be of urgent concern both for the Health Committee and the Department of Health and therefore I am requesting that this matter receive your prompt attention. Please accept my appreciation for your consideration of my request."
She stated before this question is answered, she would like to state that according to the most recent census population, the numbers of positive cases on COVID-19 is proportional to the population the towns in Putnam County. She stated for example, the Town of Southeast consist is 18.2% of the population of Putnam County and has 19% of the positive COVID-19 cases and the Town of Carmel consists of 34.4% of the population of Putnam County, and has about 38% of the positive COVID-19 cases. She questioned if the Health Department had any information pertaining to the question of ethnicity. She questioned if this is a concern or if it is possible to track the ethnicity of patients.

Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo stated they are receiving new information every day pertaining to ethnicity, gender, blood type, clotting factors, etc. She stated that kind of information may not be known until we are through this.

Dr. Nesheiwat stated this is a dynamic, fluid situation with many studies being done. He stated we need to look at where the resources are needed. He stated in an ideal situation it would be great to break it down into subgroups however the information they have is based on what is provided by NYS.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Dr. Nesheiwat and Nursing Supervisor Percacciolo for their valuable input. She stated she would now like to call upon Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ken Clair. She stated Commissioner Clair is having some technical trouble and she would move on to the next item until it is resolved.

b. Social Services Department Commissioner Michael Piazza

Commissioner of the Department of Social Services Michael Piazza stated he would break down the response to the COVID-19 outbreak into two (2) areas of the department, Social Services and Mental Health. He stated when the virus became prevalent in Putnam County, there were a number of waivers to make it easier for people to apply for services without requiring in person interviews or having to go into the office at all. He stated waivers for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Child Support, Temporary Assistance, and Medicaid made it possible to submit applications by telephone and online. He stated in the case where documentation is required, the individual has the option to scan it in to send electronically or place it in a drop box at the office. He stated thus far, everything has gone smoothly. He stated the department initially reduced staff to 50% in SNAP and food stamps and in some areas, they were able to be reduced further. He stated the SNAP applications began to back log and therefore they had more staff working on those applications and had reduced in other areas to make up for it. He stated the courts have basically been closed, however Child Protective Services (CPS) and Child Preventive Services are still operating. He stated rather than making visits in person they are making virtual visits via video calling software; as long as they can visually see the child and speak with the family, they do not have to make home visits. He stated thankfully, there have not been many new CPS cases. He stated there was one instance where they had to go to Westchester Medical Center to pick up a newborn and bring them to a foster parent, but other than that there has been limited contact. He stated the faith based homeless shelter closed early because of concerns for the health of the volunteers and they were prepared to pick up some of the slack in terms of motel placements and there were only a few people that came in for that service. He stated he will speak more about motel placements later but they will be covered by FEMA Disaster Response so they are keeping track of all expenses to claim Federal reimbursement. He stated they have initiated weekly phone meetings with the food pantries, which Chairwoman Sayegh has been on. He stated the Putnam Valley Food Pantry has closed due to concerns for volunteers and CAP (Community Action Program) closed temporarily for two (2) weeks and will begin operating next week. He stated they are trying to make sure that individuals and families who are in need of groceries are able to have it delivered to them. He stated they are prepared to utilize motels for quarantine purposes in the event that someone,

such as a first responder, is unable to quarantine at home. He stated they also have motel rooms available for people in long term rehab who are having to leave early due to illness in the rehab center. He stated these expenses are also reimbursable through FEMA. He stated in Mental Health, one of the issues was how to maintain the continuity of care in the OASAS (Office of Addiction Services and Supports) program through the State Office of Mental Health and the Putnam County Office for People with Developmental Disabilities under a different style of action. He stated CoveCare Center quickly went telephonic, or TeleHealth, which is a great experiment to see and it is important to look at the impact after this pandemic is over. He stated CEO of CoveCare Center is also on the agenda, therefore he will let him speak more to that. He stated they have always believed that people respond better to face-to-face interaction where you can see their body language and facial expressions. He stated as a clinician, he has a difficult time getting a sense of things speaking on the phone as compared to face-to-face, but over time clients are becoming more comfortable with it. He stated the other major issue in continuance of operations are in the residential programs, which are Arms Acres and St. Christopher's Inn. He stated Arms Acres had many positive cases among the staff, which was one of the pressing issues that was raised by the virus in terms of his department. He stated they spent a lot of time planning with the State in preparation for reduced staff or if the virus began spreading to the clients. He stated in past situations such as Hurricane Sandy or blizzards, when the facility was not able to operate, the agency has made plans to transfer people to other available agencies. He stated Arms Acres reduced the number of staff that needed to be on site and sent staff home to quarantine to make sure they were not positive. He stated since taking these measures it seems to have stabilized. He stated St. Christopher's Inn did not have any positive cases in their patient population, but have some positive cases among the staff members. He stated concerns have been raised by the staff about their own safety. He stated much like hospitals, these facilities are settings where there are people 24 hours per day that need to be supervised until a safe discharge plan can be made. He stated this has also stabilized although they are not yet out of the woods. He stated in one of the residential Mental Health programs in Search for Change there was a concern about continuity of operations in a Westchester house. He stated although it was not a Putnam house, they are trying to prepare for what would happen. He stated the State proposed that the staff be split into two (2) teams, each working 14 days in a row, which would allow enough time for staff members to evaluate their health and quarantine if necessary. He stated so far, there have been enough healthy staff for the program to continue. He stated there have not been any issues in Green Chimneys. He stated Arbor House, which is a homeless shelter for youth, has continued to operate although there was concern it may have to close. He stated at one point there was one child left there and they were making plans for the safe treatment of that child. He stated most of what the agencies have asked for are Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) because there has not been enough masks, gowns, goggles, or gloves. He stated they have gone through Incident Command and the Bureau of Emergency Services. He stated the Bureau of Emergency Services is making the request, however in reality there is not enough supply to address the need. He stated this continues to be a concern among all agencies in need of these materials. He stated Dr. Nesheiwat spoke about social isolation and the concerns related to that. He stated isolation ends to cause depression, and when someone is depressed it is usually their recommendation that they go out and interface with others by going to restaurants or getting some exercise to raise their endorphin levels. He stated this pandemic poses an issue because the individuals are not able to go out. He stated they are also seeing an issue in the adolescent school age population whose scheduled have been completely upended. He stated they have

taken several phone calls from school districts that are monitoring their students at home where they appear to be isolated. He stated being home all day makes it easy to spend all your time on the internet or playing video games and not actually engaging, which is a concern. He stated they have trying to get the word out about this concern to school districts, BOCES, and families. He stated different types of social networking have been emphasized in the press releases they have published for both parent support and adolescents. He stated there are also ways to access meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon virtually. He stated another concern is for individuals who have an ill family member or have lost someone, whether it is COVID-19 related or not. He stated not being able to visit someone in the hospital or say goodbye is very demoralizing and causes a great deal of anger, frustration, and depression. He stated they are trying to offer support to people experiencing this. He stated there is an emotional support help line, the crisis hotline is available 24 hours a day. He stated he does not believe the number of emergency room visits related to psychiatric issues has increased during the pandemic and has been steady since the beginning of the year.

Legislator Albano and Legislator Addonizio thanked Commissioner Piazza for the work he does.

Legislator Nacerino also thanked Commissioner Piazza and the Department of Social Services for the work done. She stated she was on the service provider and she would like to thank all the workers who are so engaged and devoted to working for residents of Putnam County.

Legislator Sullivan also thanked Commissioner Piazza. He stated he did not realize how extremely hard the Department of Social Services is also working throughout this pandemic. He stated caring for the housing, feeding, and providing services to our residents is vital.

Legislator Jonke also thanked Commissioner Piazza. He stated the impact this pandemic has had could not have been predicted and he is glad to have such competent department heads.

Legislator Gouldman stated there are many people who are in need of services to pay their bills or battle an addiction. He thanked Commissioner Piazza and his department for stepping up to continue these services.

Legislator Montgomery stated there is currently a concern about the rise of domestic violence, elder abuse, and sexual violence with everyone being home for much longer than normal. He stated her concern is that once things begin to open back up, there will be a large increase in cases that are unable to come forward now. She questioned how the Legislature can support the Department of Social Services during this time. She stated her comments earlier about overtime were not out of concern of utilizing overtime, rather concern of departments being blocked from using overtime. She stated she is not criticizing any department's use of overtime. She questioned if the policy is holding the Department of Social Services. She stated she was so impressed on the provider meeting with the innovation that all the providers have implemented in order to continue treating clients and patients. She thanked Commissioner Piazza for the resources he provided to the Town of Philipstown. She stated is a great comfort knowing that she can refer constituents in crisis to Commissioner Piazza seamlessly.

Commissioner Piazza thanked everyone for their recognition. He stated the Health Department published a press release about domestic violence to try to raise the issue in people's minds. He stated a concern they have had is that often time the school will report child abuse, however that avenue is now blocked off and there is concern as to what could be happening. He stated they are making an effort to get the word out so that family members, neighbors, and school personnel who are making contact throughout this crisis can try to be aware of what is going on.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she has heard from some constituents, one with threat of violence in the household, regarding their concerns about being quarantined. She stated she also spoke with Commissioner Piazza about a constituent who was having trouble going through the Court process in relation to CPS.

Commissioner Piazza stated although the courts shut down for the most part, they could remain open for CPS services. He stated some of them have been done via video.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Commissioner Piazza and his department. She stated she is happy to participate in the provider calls.

Item #3 – Additional Discussion – Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Ken Clair

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Commissioner Clair is now on the line and the Committee will hear from the Bureau of Emergency Services about the services being provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Clair thanked Chairwoman Sayegh for beginning the meeting this evening with a moment of silence for Dispatcher Robbie Shannon. He stated the Emergency Operations Center is open and operating virtually. He stated the Bureau of Emergency Services is working hand in hand with the Health Department and Dr Nesheiwat. He stated they have tirelessly trying to get supplies from NYS. He stated to date there have been four (4) deliveries and so far they have received 1,700 N95 masks (their burn rate is 40,000), some gowns, 6,000 gloves, and hand sanitizer. He stated they have been working collectively with the Purchasing Department as well as Legislators Jonke and Montgomery to get supplies. He stated there are many people selling supplies and a lot of it comes from China. He stated he began having a weekly phone call with his counterparts in Dutchess, Westchester, Ulster, and Rockland Counties to try to work together to obtain supplies. He stated there is more buying power in numbers; if an order is not at least 100,000 masks it is basically ignored. He stated they have distributed supplies twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays and it has worked very well. He stated since we cannot rely on the State, with the cooperation of Commissioner of Finance Carlin, the Legislature, and the County Executive, the County was able to purchase their own supply. He stated so far, N95 masks have been ordered, gloves were purchased locally at Ace Endico, an order is in for gowns, and 3,000 face shields came in today. He stated there is an order in for 100,000 N95 masks which will be split among the counties mentioned earlier. He stated the COVID-19 pandemic has been a long event and the storm that hit yesterday created additional issues. He stated they are still working to restore power to some customers. He thanked Commissioner Piazza and Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo for providing their professional insight and advice to the dispatchers and first responders. He stated he has been working with NYSEG and water and dry ice is

available at the Paladin Center for those residents who need it. He stated there are many employees in the department that are doing tasks that are outside of their normal work and he is grateful for them. He stated Commissioner Carlin and Dr. Nesheiwat have also been helping them a lot. He thanked all first responders, firefighters, police officers, and EMS workers for the amazing job they have been doing. He stated all first responders have PPE provided from what the County has purchased. He stated as was mentioned earlier, FEMA is buying up all the supplies and making it difficult for municipalities. He stated this is one of the more difficult situations because it is Nationwide and everyone is going after the same supplies, which presents a challenge. He stated on Saturday he organized a parade with over 30 firetrucks and ambulances to thank all the doctors and nurses for everything they have done.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned how the distribution of PPE is prioritized.

Commissioner Clair stated per NYS protocol, all supplies go through Emergency Services, which is done in an effort to keep it organized. He stated NYS is adamant about where their supplies go and their priorities are nursing homes and hospitals, however the State is now dealing with them directly. He stated CareMount Medical needed 70,000 masks, however there is no way that amount could be supplied. He stated they found their own vendor, which is encouraging, and they have directed other for-profit business to do the same. He stated if the County had to supply nursing homes and hospitals with the PPE, the budget would be broke. He stated after the nursing homes and hospitals receive their supply, the next priorities are first responders, County organizations, agencies such as the Humane Society, Child Advocacy Center, and the Towns and County departments. He stated they have supplied everything possible to those who have put in a request. He stated now that the County will have their own supply.

Legislator Addonizio stated she read about FEMA working with State and local governments to expedite the delivery of supplies. She stated they are doing Project Airbridge, taking supplies from the global market and bringing them to various locations across the United States. She stated 50% of those supplies are being delivered to hotspots such as New York City. She questioned if Putnam County will receive supplies through Project Airbridge.

Commissioner Clair stated according to NYS, the delivery that came through was from the FEMA stockpile. He stated the Emergency Managers across the State have been promised a lot by the Governor, but have not seen anything produced and they have been promised a lot by FEMA and they have fallen short. He stated since everything is going through the Bureau of Emergency Services, they are taking a lot of this blame rather than the State. He stated now that the County has begun purchasing on their own, our stockpile is growing.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if Project Airbridge would benefit Putnam County.

Commissioner Clair stated no, Putnam County will not. He stated supplies under Project Airbridge are going to larger affected areas. He stated Nassau County received a huge delivery from FEMA last Sunday. He stated smaller areas, like Putnam and Dutchess Counties are going on two (2) weeks without deliveries.

Chairwoman Sayegh reminded her colleagues that there are other representatives to speak with tonight and she would like to say a collected thank you to all departments and organizations for the work they are doing, rather than individual thanks from each Legislator. She asked if anyone had specific questions.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what the hours are that residents can get dry ice at the Paladin Center.

Commissioner Clair stated it will be available until 8:00pm tonight and again tomorrow beginning at 7:30am. He stated this information was emailed to all Towns.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the first responders in the County have the supplies they need to do their job.

Commissioner Clair stated yes, they have supplies right now.

Legislator Montgomery stated as she understands from the Town Supervisors in her district, the towns can now order through the County Bureau of Emergency Services. She stated last month a resolution was passed to allocate the funds for the County to purchase PPE and it mentioned determining what the chargeback will be. She questioned if this has been determined. She stated she is currently helping the Town of Philipstown place an order and she would like to be able to provide information on what it may cost. She stated there is a large group making hundreds of masks and she questioned if these masks should go to specific agencies to save the County's stockpile.

Commissioner Clair stated he would encourage the masks from the Mask Makers Guild go to anyone who is not emergency service related, such as employees of Town Hall. He stated as far as the chargeback, he does not know yet what the reimbursement from FEMA will be. He stated he is hoping that they will reimburse 100%, but if they only reimburse 75%, the County would be responsible for the remaining 25%. He stated they can provide an itemized bill showing the price of each item. He stated the County is not making a profit on this.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Commissioner Clair. She also thanked the Mask Makers Guild for bringing the whole community in Putnam County together for such great work,

Legislator Jonke stated he has been in close contact with Commissioner Clair over the past couple months and he has offered his assistance with things such as phone calls to elected representatives. He questioned if there is anyone else that he could call to help with the supply of PPE.

Commissioner Clair stated Legislator Jonke has been helpful in contacting State representatives and Assemblyman Byrne has been very helpful. He stated FEMA promised NYS 500,000 test kits and they still have not gotten it. He stated the National Guard is putting kits together because they cannot get them either. He thanked Legislator Jonke for reaching out to offer his assistance. He stated at this point, he does not know of anyone else to contact to try to help. He stated all Emergency Managers in NYS are in contact with the State about their needs.

Legislator Nacerino thanked the Bureau of Emergency Services for going above and beyond during this time.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Commissioner Clair and his staff for the work being done. He stated the storm that came through did not help matters. He stated if there is anything the Legislators can do to please reach out.

Commissioner Clair thanked Legislator Sullivan. He stated Westchester and Dutchess Counties have both offered dispatcher assistance. He stated as of yesterday, Director of Emergency Medical Services Casey Quake is also a trained dispatcher and has been helping dispatch as of yesterday.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Commissioner Clair and his staff and offered condolences to the entire team.

c. Office for Senior Resources Director Michael Cunningham

Chairwoman Sayegh introduced Director of the Office for Senior Resources Michael Cunningham and Coordinator of Services Doreen Crane.

Coordinator of Services Crane stated Director Cunningham will speak as well, but wanted her to discuss telephone reassurance. She stated calls are going out every day through case workers, student case workers, outreach, and wellness coordinators to try to combat the isolation they are seeing in the senior population since they are at home. She stated they have an "at risk" list, home delivered meal list, regular cases to be followed up with, and the psych participant list that are called each week. She stated at first the seniors were appreciative of the phone call and they are noticing that the seniors have been talking longer because they are feeling the isolation. She stated taking this into consideration, they are going to start doing some of the activities they would do at an Office for Senior Resources site. She stated one of these activities is Coffee and Conversation which allows seniors to discuss any topics they wish and will be done via conference calling. She stated they will also have brain fitness classes via conference call which is a more specific discussion than the Coffee and Conversation. She stated the caregiver case worker has been calling each member of the caregiver support group individually, however they are finding that when they interact as a group they actually learn from one another, therefore they are going to try to hold those support groups via conference call as well. She stated the State has provided some interactive animatronic pets, both cats and dogs, that have heartbeats and react when touched. She stated they are trying to focus on their adult day care participants to see if they would be interested in one of the animals.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if Director Cunningham was on the line. She stated it shows that he is present, but it seems he is having trouble with the microphone.

Legislator Addonizio thanked the Office for Senior Resources for taking care of the seniors in our County during this critical time.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated we are seeing so much innovation and adaptation from the departments to continue serving the public with limited resources. She stated Putnam County has a large percentage of senior citizens and it is vital to check on them during this time to help combat isolation. She stated it is her understanding that meals are still being delivered on a regular basis.

Legislator Gouldman stated isolation can contribute to or lead to many other issues and he thanked the Office for Senior Resources for thinking out of the box and creating new ways to reach out to seniors.

Legislator Montgomery questioned Coordinator of Services Crane if she had information about the Philipstown and Putnam Valley seniors. She stated Philipstown has several programs that are accessible on their website. She stated the food pantry there is running weekly and there is a food voucher program for food and medication copays, and seniors are prioritized. She stated if this information would be helpful when dealing with this area, she would be happy to provide it.

Coordinator of Services Crane stated the caseworkers that work in Philipstown and Cold Spring are working with Jason Angel and the groups at Town Hall and they have been referring people over there.

Chairwoman Sayegh check in to see if Director Cunningham was able to rectify his technical issue. She stated she is aware that Director Cunningham is working very closely with the Hudson Valley Food Bank and 211 to distribute groceries to seniors in Putnam County. She stated last week 165 seniors had groceries delivered to them to they did not have to go out and shop and that is being done again next week. She thanked the Office for Senior Resources for continuing to reach out to seniors during this time. She stated at this point we will move on to the next item, but stated Director Cunningham should chime in when his audio is fixed.

d. United Way of Westchester and Putnam President and CEO Tom Gabriel

Chairwoman Sayegh introduced President and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam (United Way), Tom Gabriel.

President & CEO Gabriel thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak this evening. He stated United Way is both a grant maker to other nonprofit organizations and a direct service provider through their 211 helpline. He stated on March 22, 2020 Putnam County officially designated the 211 call center as a point of information for Putnam residents regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. He stated since that designation was made, 849 calls have been received from Putnam residents, which is a 326% increase over the same time period last year when there were about 199 calls. He stated of those 849 calls, 591 were COVID-19 related and 118 were related to the food delivery programs in Putnam County, which could be COVID-19 related as well. He stated the residents were seeking information pertaining to the virus, symptoms, quarantine protocols, testing sites, etc. He stated the breakdown of the calls by town are 157 from Brewster, 297 from Carmel and Kent, 256 from Mahopac, 26 from Cold Spring, 15 from Garrison, 33 from Patterson, and 65 from Putnam Valley. He stated tracking this data allows for the creation of trends. He stated they are seeing a tremendous increase in calls as they relate to

unemployment and financial benefits, which has about a 1,700% increase. He stated calles related to rent, mortgage, utility payments, or inability to make those payments, is almost a 1,000% increase. He stated there has been an 800% increase in calls related to homelessness, a 600% increase in calls related to food insecurity, and a 100% increase in calls relating to domestic violence. He stated they are sharing this information with other organizations and they have spoken at the Putnam Providers Network meeting about it. He stated this morning they had a meeting with local nonprofit organizations in Putnam in collaboration with the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley to share these data and trends. He stated they are providing further support to the community through grants to nonprofit organizations. He stated they have two (2) grant funds available; one related to food insecurity and the other is related to in-home provision and services. He stated this includes TeleHealth for seniors or individuals who are chronically ill or immune compromised. He stated grants for about $25,000 will be made available within the next couple of days, which they envision to be the first of several rounds of grants over the next several months. He stated they are also working to help with food distribution in Putnam County. He stated they have partnered with Community Cares, the Putnam County Business Council, and local food establishments to provide professionally prepared meals to Putnam residents, specifically senior citizens, those are disabled or immune compromised, as well as first responders and healthcare workers. He stated Community Cares and United Way funded family style meals. He stated through the 211 call center, they are vetting eligible recipients and coordinating prepared meals and volunteer delivery of the meals. He stated so far there are about 50 Putnam County households participating in the meal program. He stated as Chairwoman Sayegh mentioned earlier, in coordination with Putnam County, Office for Senior Resources, and the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, they helped distribute about 10,000 pounds of food to about 800 families. He stated 340 of those were delivered to seniors either by the Office for Senior Resources or by volunteers. He stated this event was held at the County's Donald B. Smith campus and over 70 volunteers were involved. He stated this is being held again on April 16, 2020 and they have asked that people preregister, so they do not run out of food and have to turn people away. He stated registration for this event is already full. He stated they are hoping to hold several more as long a they have the resources to help as many people as possible. He stated information about United Way programs and specifically the food distribution is available on their website uwwp.org. He stated registration for the food distribution can be done online at uwwp.org/food. He stated information can also be accessed by calling 211.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked President & CEO Gabriel. She stated the work done by United Way during this pandemic is incredible. She stated the Untied way is a great resource not only during a pandemic, but always. She reminded residents to call 211 rather than 911 in a non-emergency situation. She stated 211 can help connect individuals to resources for many different issues.

Legislator Addonizio thanked President & CEO Gabriel for all he does for Putnam County.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she assisted with the food distribution event and it was an impressive operation. She stated she cannot speak highly enough about 211 and how amazing the United Way staff has been in arranging these events. She stated they originally though the would be giving out 5,000 pounds of food, and the Hudson Valley Food Pantry brought 10,000 pounds.

She stated people might not be aware that residents of Putnam County are food insecure, however it is a real possibility especially during a pandemic.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification on the registration capacity for the Aril 16, 2020 food distribution event.

President & CEO Gabriel stated they have enough food to assist about 600 families at the next food distribution event. He stated in order to make sure everyone that was at the event could be helped, they offered preregistrations, and within a few days it was full. He stated at this time, they can not accept new registrations or walk ins for the event on April 16, 2020, but they will hold another event the following Thursday on April 23, 2020. He stated registration for future events can be done on their website or by calling 211.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated another reason for the preregistration is to prioritize Putnam County residents, since a few food banks have closed during this time. She stated she would also like to mention that Community Cares will be donating up to $10,000 with matching grants from other organizations to pay for meals supplied by local restaurants. She stated if there are any local restaurants that would like to participate, or if residents are in need of assistance, they can contact Community Cares by emailing COVID19@communitycares.org. She thanked President & CEO Gabriel for his support and for attending tonight's meeting.

e. CoveCare Center CEO Eric Toth

Chairwoman Sayegh introduced CoveCare Center CEO Eric Toth.

CEO Toth thanked the Committee for having him tonight. He stated he has spoken with Legislators, County Executive Odell, and Commissioner of Finance Carlin and has been working with the Department of Social Services and Putnam County has been a great source of support. He stated they also received some PPE from the Bureau of Emergency Services, which was very helpful. He stated the State has lifted barriers to providing remote services, which has been essential because otherwise there would be no way to support people in their behavioral health needs. He stated essentially, all regulations have been stripped down to the degree where communication platforms can be used that would not normally be HIPPA compliant; these include the telephone, Skype, FaceTime, GoToMeeting, and Zoom. He stated being able to deliver services in this manner has been spectacular. He stated it has been expensive to gear up to do this, and he anticipates taking a hit in revenue as a result. He stated it was mentioned earlier how much there is to learn from this awful situation. He stated one of the things they have learned is at least in some areas and for some populations, being able to provide remote services has actually helped productivity. He stated people who need services are able to obtain what they need, especially since the State has not allowed insurance companies to charge copays for TeleHealth. He stated one (1) thing they are unable to do remotely is provide long term injectable medication. He stated they have a nurse who is in once a week to provide the injections. He stated unfortunately, the storm yesterday knocked the power out and she did some injections by flashlight before having to close the office for the day. He stated they have been very busy and everyone is working from home. He stated they are predicting that there will be a greater need for some services as this pandemic goes on. He stated they have expanded their

capacity a little bit by getting a few extra workers which allows them to help clients quickly. He stated it is tricky to do initial assessments, particularly for children when it comes to psychiatry. He stated they have their child psychiatrist geared up with a TeleHealth platform where a visual assessment can be done. He stated they are asking for patience within the community and also the understanding that while they are able to open up new clients, it may not necessarily be with someone that is going to be there long term. He stated he is glad to be able to support those who need it in the time being. He stated there could be a lot of needs that come as a result of this pandemic. He stated this can be a challenging time for people who are in recovery for substance abuse and children or families who are at risk of abuse. He stated there will also be mental health needs as everyone in the community is experiencing the trauma of this situation, and one of the things trauma can do is heighten vulnerabilities. He stated even the least vulnerable among us are being impacted by this; no one is exempt. He stated they are preparing to be ready for behavioral health needs that may be a result of this. He stated there are also concerns related to long term economic challenges and what it will be like when people begin reintegrating into the world. He stated they are anticipating a lot of changes in the way this field operates moving forward. He stated he does not believe these services can operate solely through a remote environment, but the barriers to do that effectively have been challenging before this and it would be a shame to not learn how helpful it can be to have this kind of access for those who cannot physically get to the office. He stated it would be great to be able to work towards allowing organizations like CoveCare Center and other behavioral health care organizations upgrade in this way at least as part of their services.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if CoveCare Center is accepting new intakes.

CEO Toth states yes, new clients can call the main number, 845-225-2700. He stated although some of their clinicians might be operating on different hours, the front desk is operating 9-5 Monday through Friday.

Legislator Addonizio thanked CEO Toth for the work being done during this challenging time. She questioned if there has been a decrease in substance abuse clients since operating remotely.

CEO Toth stated there has been a little bit of a drop in the substance abuse area. He believes some of this has to do with people's concerns about participating in virtual groups and how private they might be.

Legislator Montgomery thanked CEO Toth for all of the great information. She questioned how the staff of CoveCare Center is holding up. She stated this is a historic event and it is amazing how interconnected all of these departments and issues are. She stated she knows the staff is trained and they are professionals, but this situation is unprecedented. She questioned how the Legislature can support the CoveCare staff. She stated she supports the idea of continuing virtual care as we move forward.

CEO Toth stated that is a great question and he would say how the staff is doing varies, just as much as it does in the general population. He stated overall, he has been very impressed with he staff and frustrated that he cannot see or speak to them. He stated they held a virtual staff meeting this morning and it was great to see everyone's face. He stated it has been amazing how

creative people have gotten to be able to connect with others. He stated they are monitoring their productivity every day, they have clinicians spending at least nine (9) hours on the phone speaking with people who have significant mental health challenges and are still finding time to reach out and support their fellow colleagues. He stated this pandemic is not something they are just supporting their clients through; everyone is going through it together. He stated a lot of the staff are exposed to "secondary trauma" which results when they take on the trauma of clients, however in this situation they are also experiencing the community trauma. He stated the directors, supervisors, and team members have been really supportive of one another. He stated there have also been some who have really struggled. He stated some staff members have lost family members and people they knew. He stated one staff member is expecting a child and had to step away from her role during this challenging time. He stated they continue to support their staff and make sure they are able to stay connected. He thanked Legislator Montgomery for asking.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked CEO Toth for providing this update.

c. Office for Senior Resources Director Michael Cunningham – Continued

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Director Cunningham is now on the line.

Director Cunningham stated the Office for Senior Resources has been focusing on two (2) major initiatives. He stated they have had to shut down their meal sites as well as their adult say services program. He stated they have been trying to com up with a formula of how the needs of the seniors can be addressed. He stated the two (2) main things they have been focusing on are nutrition and combatting isolation. He stated it is important to support seniors in terms of social aspects of life. He stated Coordinator of Services Crane spoke to the isolation earlier so he will focus on nutrition. He stated the primary thing they have been doing is the home delivered meals and daily hot lunches. He stated they are also sending out their "blizzard boxes" which are a supply of shelf ready and frozen food that they distribute to seniors during major weather events. He stated this year we did not have many major snowstorms, therefore they had some blizzard boxes available and are continuing to restock their inventory. He stated they have seen an increase in the requests for home delivered meals, it went from about 135 meals daily to over 170. He stated some seniors discontinued their meal deliveries due to their concerns about contact with the delivery driver, and they have ensured that those seniors have adequate support during this time. He stated they have also added more meals to the deliveries. He stated New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) has been very supportive in terms of dealing with this increase. He stated generally, the home delivered meals program is restrictive to make sure it is going to the most needed, however NYSOFA has relaxed their restrictions as typical assessments where the home would be visited cannot be done at this time. He stated right now the primary focus is being able to meet people's needs. He stated those receiving home delivered meals will be reassess once this is over, but right now they are getting daily requests for meals and they have the capacity to continue and that has been the most important thing. He stated they really depend on the safety of the staff. He stated the drivers of the home delivered meals have face to face contact with clients and in the past, they might have gone inside to talk to the seniors for a while however they now have to speak with them through the door and leave the food on the doorstep. He stated delivering the meals is also a way of checking on the seniors to

make sure they are doing alright. He stated if they do not answer the door, the driver will report back to the office and someone will call the senior or their caregiver to check in on them. He stated the cooking staff works in close quarters in the kitchen and they have been doing an outstanding job getting the meals out and making sure they are following safe practices to minimize risk. He stated they have been very fortunate as a team and there have not been any staff members with the virus. He stated there have been staff members who stayed home due to exposure. He stated also in the area of nutrition they are offering grocery counseling. He stated there are some stores that do not deliver, and they have worked with seniors who cannot get to the store themselves to make sure they have family members or neighbors that can shop for them. He stated they have not had anyone unable to get groceries, but they have established that volunteers will be utilized in this manner if necessary. He stated they are also exploring the possibility of having grab and go meals available where people can drive in and pick up a meal outside the door on a reserved basis. He stated they have also been supporting the food distribution system being sponsored by United Way. He stated nutrition has been a major part of their efforts. He stated in terms of workforce, it's been very challenging. He stated in the beginning, there were some areas that were not deemed essential by the State, however that has now been clarified. He stated there has been some anxiety among the staff in terms of exposing seniors to the virus and they have made an effort to maintain distance, especially when delivering meals to the home. He stated the older population is targeted as high risk, therefore getting back to normal business might be at a slow pace. He stated they are looking into increasing their food programs as well as the support programs in place to combat isolation.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it is amazing to see how our departments have come together to serve the residents of Putnam County. She stated it must be reassuring for seniors to have the daily meal delivery, and it doubles as a way to check in on them.

Director Cunningham stated they want to make sure anyone who needs the Office for Senior Resources is aware and able to get in touch. He stated the telephones have been very busy and he hopes everyone who is in need of services is able to reach out.

Chairwoman Sayegh requested that Director Cunningham provide the phone number for the Office for Senior Resources.

Director Cunningham stated it is 845-808-1700.

Legislator Addonizio stated she was contacted by two (2) constituents looking for home delivered meals and Director Cunningham helped them right away. She thanked Director Cunningham for his outstanding work.

Director Cunningham stated he has a good staff of 70 members. He stated each employee is essential and everything they do keeps things going.

Legislator Albano thanked Director Cunningham and stated it is great that the Office for Senior Resources is stepping u to meet the additional needs of our seniors during this time.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked Director Cunningham.

Item #4 - Other Business - None

Item #5 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:49 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Toni E. Addonizio *Chairwoman*
Neal L. Sullivan *Deputy Chair*
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Carl L. Albano	Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke	Dist. 6
Joseph Castellano	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Neal L. Sullivan	Dist. 9

AGENDA
HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIA AUDIO WEBINAR
PURSUANT TO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Albano

Tuesday 6:00PM April 14, 2020

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Update/COVID-19 Response Measures**
   a. **Health Department Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat**
   b. **Social Services Department Commissioner Michael Piazza**
   c. **Office for Senior Resources Director Michael Cunningham**
   d. **United Way of Westchester and Putnam President and CEO Tom Gabriel**
   e. **CoveCare Center CEO Eric Toth**

4. **Other Business**

5. **Adjournment**

all

Health
5/12/20

Update
#4

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 24, 2020

TO: MaryEllen Odell
Putnam County Executive

FROM: Amy Sayegh
Chairwoman, Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee

RE: COVID-19 Discussion at Health Committee Meeting

The discussion that was held at the April 14, 2020 Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee meeting regarding the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was vital. The information the County was able to provide to the public is invaluable. I would like to continue keeping the public and the Legislature informed, therefore I respectfully request the following members of your Administration participate in the May 12, 2020 Health Committee meeting's audio conference:

- Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, or a representative
- Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ken Clair
- Safety Officer John O'Connor

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm and the information for the audio conference will be available on the Legislature's website.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

CC: Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat
Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ken Clair
Safety Officer John O'Connor

/eg

Health
Mtg 5.12.20
Discussion
#5

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue
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Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Neal L. Sullivan	Dist. 9

May 7, 2020

Kelly Formoso
Executive Director
American Red Cross – Hudson Valley Chapter
Via Email: Kelly.Formoso@redcross.org

Dr. James Halpern
Board Member
American Red Cross – Hudson Valley Chapter
Via Email: halpernj@newpaltz.edu

Dear Ms. Formoso and Dr. Halpern:

Please accept this letter as written confirmation of your participation in the May 12, 2020 Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee Meeting audio conference. I look forward to the information that you will provide regarding the American Red Cross' Disaster Mental Health Resources and the Virtual Family Assistance Center.

The meeting will begin at 6:00PM and the link for the audio conference will be available on the Putnam County Legislature's website.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Amy E. Sayegh

Amy Sayegh
Chairwoman, Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee

PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MaryEllen Odell
County Executive

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Patricia Simone
Chief of Staff

2020 APR 24 PM 3:53
LEGISLATURE
PUTNAM COUNTY
CARMEL, NY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Toni Addonizio, Chairwoman
Putnam County Legislature

Cc: Amy Sayegh, Chairwoman
Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee

FROM: MaryEllen Odell, County Executive *MaryEllen Odell*

RE: American Red Cross- Information for Healthcare Professionals and Virtual Family Assistance Center

DATE: May 4, 2020

I respectfully request that you place on the agenda for discussion the attached E-mail I received from Kelly Formoso, Executive Director of the American Red Cross, Hudson Valley Chapter. The E-mail is in reference to Disaster Mental Health resources for our community that the American Red Cross has developed. For your convenience I will also forward the E-mail to you so you can click on the link to find out more information about these resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

2020 MAY -4 PM 3:55
LEGISLATURE
PUTNAM COUNTY
CARMEL, NY

From: Formoso, Kelly <Kelly.Formoso@redcross.org>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:43:18 AM
To: MaryEllen Odell <MaryEllen.ODell@putnamcountyny.gov>
Subject: American Red Cross- Information for Healthcare Professionals and Virtual Family Assistance Center

Morning MaryEllen,

Hope this e-mail finds you well. My name is Kelly M. Formoso and I am the Executive Director for the Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross serving Orange, Putnam, Dutchess, Ulster, Greene, & Columbia counties. I am reaching out to you because the American Red Cross has developed Disaster Mental Health resources for our community. We created a video on *Recognizing and Managing Stress for Healthcare Workers in a Public Health Emergency*, led by Dr. James Halpern and opened our Virtual Family Assistance Center. You can find out more information about these resources below;

Recognizing and Managing Stress for Healthcare Workers in a Public Health Emergency-
Recognizing and Managing Stress for Healthcare Workers in a Public Health Emergency can be found on our Red Cross ENY YouTube Channel- **https://youtu.be/fsjBLJhuqZc**

- Dr. James Halpern is the founding Director of the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz's. I have attached his bio if you would like more information about his experience.

Virtual Family Assistance Center Information-
The American Red Cross is operating a virtual Family Assistance Center to provide comfort and support, information and referrals for New York State families that have lost loved ones to the COVID-19 Coronavirus. The virtual Family Assistance Center will link families to crisis counselors who will provide emotional and spiritual support, as well as information and referrals to help them navigate the challenging process they might be facing as a result of their loved one's death.
A team of 30 specially trained Red Cross Disaster Mental Health, Disaster Spiritual Care, and Health Services volunteers will be available to support families with their emotional and spiritual needs, as well as provide information and referrals to state and local agencies as well as other community organizations to help families meet their immediate needs. This may include challenges with moving their loved one's body through systems that may be overwhelmed and have different process than normal; legal resources for estate, custody, immigration, or other issues related to the death of their family member; information on how to obtain travel services; and more. All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential.

Families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 can fill out an online intake form, and a Family Assistance Center volunteer will contact them:

- **English: www.redcross.org/NYSCOVIDFamilySupport**
- **Spanish: www.redcross.org/NYSCOVIDApoyoFamiliar**

Intake forms can also be filled out by a friend who thinks someone who needs help, or an agency working on behalf of the family. Those without online capabilities may call **585-957-8187**, and a volunteer will assist them with the initial intake process. The Family Assistance Center is expected to operate for as long as families will benefit from the service. I have attached the Virtual Family Assistance Center Flyer, please share.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. Thank you for your support and sharing these resources with your team.

Stay safe,

Kelly M. Formoso
Executive Director
American Red Cross
Hudson Valley Chapter
4 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 302
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(518)618-5731 (p)
kelly.formoso@redcross.org
www.redcross.org/eny

Healthy blood donors needed now!

Schedule at RedCrossBlood.org

American Red Cross

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

5.12.20 health

Approval #6 & 7

Toni E. Addonizio *Chairwoman*
Neal L. Sullivan *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 16, 2020

TO: Amy Sayegh
Chairwoman, Health, Social, Educational, & Environmental Committee

FROM: Ginny Nacerino
Legislator, District #4 Ginny Nacerino

RE: Proclamation Request

The COVID-19 pandemic that we are currently experiencing is an unprecedented event. In the few short weeks since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Putnam County we have seen the entire community take action. Those who were able to, stayed home to decrease exposure in an effort to flatten the curve, while essential workers have stepped up and worked even harder to help eradicate this virus as cases in Putnam County were rapidly increasing.

Among these essential workers are the staff of Putnam Hospital Center (PHC); the County's only hospital. With little time to prepare for the increase in patients and a widespread shortage of personal protective equipment, PHC doctors, nurses, and staff have worked tirelessly to treat patients in the safest way possible. PHC workers have become true heroes in Putnam County, and I would like to honor them with a proclamation.

Also, I would like to show our appreciation for all essential workers throughout Putnam County and the work they have done throughout this vital time through the presentation of a proclamation as well.

Respectfully, I request these proclamations be considered at the May Health, Social, Educational, & Environmental Committee Meeting so they can both be presented at the June 2, 2020 Full Legislative Meeting. Thank you for your attention to these requests.

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Recognizing Putnam Hospital Center Health Care Workers Among the COVID-19 Outbreak

WHEREAS, The outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic is an unprecedented event that has severely impacted economies, municipalities, communities, and individuals all over the world within a period of months. Rarely has the entire world collectively experienced such an event; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to decrease exposure, flatten the curve, and ultimately stop the spread of the virus, guidelines and mandatory restrictions that changed our normal way of life were quickly implemented by both the Federal and State Governments. In the short time since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Putnam County, we have witnessed our entire community take action; and

WHEREAS, In a united effort, many residents have stayed home from school and work, transitioning their home into temporary classrooms and workspaces. Meanwhile essential workers, especially health care workers, have not only continued to work, but have bravely stepped up to the challenges this Pandemic has created. Putnam County has only one hospital, Putnam Hospital Center located in Carmel. With little time to prepare for the inevitable increase in patients, Putnam Hospital Center doctors, nurses, and staff have tirelessly worked long hours to treat patients in the most effective and safest way possible. These workers have also faced the challenges of operating with a widespread shortage of personal protective equipment. During this time the employees of Putnam Hospital Center have also stayed updated on the constantly changing information being learned about this virus and have proven themselves to be true heroes in Putnam County; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby recognize the efforts of the employees of Putnam Hospital Center and acknowledge their unwavering commitment to not only their patients, but community as a whole, in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive

Toni Addonizio, Chair, Putnam County Legislature

Health/MH
5.13.20
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Approved

Recognizing Essential Workers Among the COVID-19 Outbreak

WHEREAS, The outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic is an unprecedented event that has severely impacted economies, municipalities, communities, and individuals all over the world within a period of months. Rarely has the entire world collectively experienced such an event; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to decrease exposure, flatten the curve, and ultimately stop the spread of the virus, guidelines and mandatory restrictions that changed our normal way of life were quickly implemented by both the Federal and State Governments. Over the short time since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Putnam County, we have witnessed our entire community take action. Fortunately, we live in a time when many employees and students have been able to temporarily establish remote workstations at their homes; and

WHEREAS, While daily schedules have drastically changed for most residents, essential workers have not only continued to work, but have bravely stepped up to the challenges that have come with this Pandemic to continue providing necessary services to the community; and

WHEREAS, In the face of this Pandemic, essential workers throughout Putnam County have shown their unwavering commitment to their community by standing on the front lines each day. Healthcare workers have accommodated an increase in patients with limited resources. Pharmacies and grocery store employees have continued working so access to medicine, food, and other vital resources has been uninterrupted. Sanitation workers have continued their routes. Postal services have continued so mail and packages may still be sent and received. Childcare centers have stayed in operation, providing children of essential workers a safe place to go while their parents are working. Financial institutions have continued their operations in order for banking, accounting, and payroll to continue. News reporters have continued their work, delivering vital updates on this constantly changing situation. These essential workers are among many who have put themselves in the midst of this outbreak to provide vital services to their fellow community members; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby recognize the bravery shown by all essential workers in Putnam County and acknowledge their hard work and unwavering commitment to community as a whole during this unparalleled time.

MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive

Toni Addonizio, Chair, Putnam County Legislature

Health mg. #7
5.13.20
Approved