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Speaker 1 Tuesday, August 19th. July. I'm just trying to check and see if. So, a couple of things before we get started to let you all know. Uh, most importantly, I've been informed that, uh, Peggy O'Shay remains ill. And she will not be joining us this morning. And I believe that there is not going to be anyone in her stead. So the discussion that we've been waiting to have will have to be pended once again. I hesitate to ask others to stand in or even to embark on that discussion without representatives from DOB.

Speaker 2 Steve, can I ask one question for clarification? Because in my side letter, if I'm remembering correctly and it's not in front of me something the presentation was supposed to happen at the first meeting, then we didn't happen because it wasn't presented. So then it was going to happen at the second meeting and then we know how the last 50 minutes went. So I just want and then obviously there were discussions in between. I just want to make sure that there's nothing that's going to cause us to not be able to recommend on the full amount because this delay is happening.

Speaker 1 Yeah. So I can attempt an answer to that and then we'll take comments from the board in the interim between last meeting and this meeting, I had an opportunity to sit down with Peggy O'shay for over an hour and heard the presentation. I am not willing to repeat anything I heard because it I probably need to hear it three or four times before I will be confident in getting it all right. It was my understanding as a result of that, that we have missed no hard deadlines for anything, and that there were two opportunities that we have in this year. One is is a hard deadline in November to get in. It's our last chance to get recommendations in for money that could be spent in this budget year and to begin talking about next. But that there is an opportunity now to to comment on this year's spending and as soon as we can get ourselves in a position to make those recommendations. My understanding was that they'd be received more than ever. I understand the the definition of recommendation is, you know, it'll be taken under consideration. We have no there's nothing in any of the law or guidelines that I've seen that suggests that we get to dictate anything. So. But but I was I asked the question in multiple ways, and the answer that I got was the sooner the better. But the deadline was to get a meeting that there was a July or June or July kind of deadline. And and my belief was that we've met that that's.

Speaker 2 Just one more thing for clarification and then I'm done on the topic. But there was a concern about urgency regarding the funds on the scorecard. And so my hope personally and I don't know about everybody else would have been that after that conversation and in line with what we created as our own whatever Northstar litmus test, that that might have been the first pot of money that we tackled and made recommendations on that. So that directly tied in and if that money could be moving. So now I guess we're just really delayed.

Speaker 1 That was my that was my understanding and my hope and that was my expectation. And I can only say the the best case scenario here is that we've been delayed but not derailed. I can't speak to the worst case scenario because it's not in my my purview. I will tell you that, um, you know, at the board's recommendation or charge, I prepared a letter on our behalf to 12 individuals in the State and the Assembly, the Finance Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, counsel in both the Senate and the Assembly. And I got one response, and that was the score card is an extension of a legal document for the law. And there was the understanding that seemed to be going on in the background that we would be able to discuss everything on the score card in our next

meeting. But there was no promise. There was there was clearly a sense that no one was going to come to this meeting from any of those offices that we invited. And I think there was really nothing that I think we can definitively do or say until we hear from DOB, Avi you have your hand up and then. Dr. Watkins.

Speaker 3 Okay, I want to make a motion and I wanted to go on record, please. I want it documented. That this board was convened late. We could have been convened in March. And I don't know. I don't care what agency, Oasis, OMB, DOH, CIA, whoever it is, did not convey us on time because we could have been part of the scorecard negotiation that was not there. Everything from the beginning, from March I mean, from June 14 until now has been an amateurish I can't even find a word. You know, it has been done in an amateur way. Nothing has been done in a professional way. I want it documented. So when the time comes, I want the world to know that whatever agency that is responsible, Ok is not doing their job. And this whole thing leads me to believe, and I don't think I'm the only one here. I think there's many of us who think that when it comes to dispersing the money, it's going to be a cluster. Shut the door. So I would strongly urge I would strongly urge all the agencies who represent New York State to get your act together, get in here because your games are causing lives. Your games have caused life before your games cause in life today and your games will cause life tomorrow. I was told that they're going to come to the table. I got a call from the AG and I was told that they were going to come to the table, prepare and to start all over again and to try to get everything right. So to me, a New York state government that only has one person that can present a budget is a joke. And I said it yesterday that it doesn't seem I don't get the impression from that they are from this from the government side that any single one of them is taking this damn thing seriously. And I'm a little upset right now, but I'm going to hold my tongue. But but you know what? Oasis is making the Keystone Cops look like God damn the FBI. And it's time to get their act together. It's time for everybody to get their act together. So I want it on record and I insist on that to be on record and I want to see a copy of it. And you know what? Yesterday you said that some people went to the media and talked to the media. Well, I'll tell you what, Steve. The media right now is the only friend we have. November is going to come very fast. And people are going to make up their mind who they want to see running this agency and all this running this government. And it just reminds me of President Ford falling down the stairs of an airline. Okay. It's the same thing over here with this government agency. So get your act together. OASIS, OMB, and the rest of you. Okay. There's people who died because your delays are because all these idiotic rules that you come up with. I want on record.

Speaker 1 Dr. Watkins.

Speaker 3 Oh, yes, Mr. Chair, I was wondering if by chance we can get that fiscal report sent to us, since you.

Speaker 1 Had the opportunity to.

Speaker 3 Actually hear it, if it could be sent out to the board so that we can review it. And by the time that we meet again as a board, then we will have an idea of what will be presented.

Speaker 1 Yes, please. Ashley. Oh, I will. I thought you were responding to him. Oh, I'm sorry, Dr. Watkins. So I want to be clear about this. I, in my own effort to do due diligence and to catch up with a fast moving train, I talked with Peggy Shea to hear what she was going to say. Hmm. I wasn't given a report in terms of a document, and I didn't take notes

because I was trying to listen as carefully as I could so I can join in the discussion as an intelligent partner. I would be glad if I could to honor your request, but I don't feel like I can. I don't have anything to share. Well, I'm not asking.

Speaker 3 The report from you, but from Peggy Shea, if she could just in a report to the board.

Speaker 1 I'm sorry. I misunderstood. I thought you were asking me to tell you what I got from that.

Speaker 3 All right. Thank you.

Speaker 1 I will ask for that.

Speaker 4 Steve, would it be possible for Peggy to provide us a WebEx presentation of her?

Speaker 1 Well, it's very interesting that Suzanne, you bring that up. She offered because she didn't know about her vacation schedule before we had firmed up this meeting, and she offered to prepare a video for us. I thought. That. That I thought that. Excuse me. I thought that a video wouldn't allow for a proper dialogue or engagement. And I thought that, in fact, it would fuel feelings of distrust rather than encourage them. Unfortunately, in retrospect, it would have been nice to have had a video. Ashley is next, please.

Speaker 5 Since we're not going to have DOB presentation, we do have other members for like for data that we've been asking. So we have Dr. Smith from OMH, we have Joanne Moore from DOH. We have some individuals from the Drug Users Hub or the AIDS Institute. So maybe we could start kind of seeing, you know, some of the services and like, you know, we've been asking for data. I think we talked a lot about that, if I remember correctly, too. I remember in asking and in an email about like unique individuals. So I'm just wondering if maybe they'd know like what their touches are. I know we talked a little bit about integration. I have some concerns with definitions because that's just how my brain works. And I want to make sure that integration means the same thing because currently what we're doing. Is not really working, if that makes sense. So I remember somebody yesterday, I can't remember who it was but said something about Oasis and Image have been working toward integration. So I, you know, I didn't know like where they were referencing the crisis stabilization centers, which personally I'll go on record and say, I don't think that they're good, they're going to burden an already burdened system. But either way, that's not what I'm here to talk about. But integration currently is like, okay, so you have psychiatric upstairs, you have food downstairs, they don't share a case. So like I just kind of wanted to get. So if we could maybe have, you know, our other agencies give some data.

Speaker 1 Actually, if I could, um. Before we get to other comments, I would like to respond. First of all, I appreciate very much your immediate willingness to get into the next order of business, because we need to to go in that direction. And I appreciate that. I'd like to just address a few things before we decide what we're going to spend the morning doing. We have a couple of things that are in front of us. One is that we still want to review and approve the minutes from from last meeting Anne sent out a a compilation of those themes that we had agreed on yesterday. We're going to put them up on the screen. We're send she sent them she sent them to me. And we're going to put them up on the screen this morning. We're. Well, we'll get you a copy as well. There's no desire to keep it from

you. It all happened in real time in the middle of the night. So we're going to put it up or email it to you. Yeah. All I'm saying is, is that there is a number of things this morning that we can and should address. And I'd be glad to move in the direction that you're talking about, Ashley. I would I would like, though, to finish our discussion on on the budget question, if there's anything else to say. Debra, I see you came to the table. Did you want to say.

Speaker 4 Hi. Good morning, everyone. And I'm no step in for Peggy, but I can share with you that before last.

Speaker 2 Meeting, which was June 28th.

Speaker 5 I believe that.

Speaker 4 The package of information that went out prior to that meeting included all of Peggy's charts that she was going to present on. So there was a number of them. Right. And she had talked about you sort of the complication that she wanted to kind of go through how they all flow into one another and things like that. So I know they were re-sent out. There may have been tiny updates because of new information from the AG, new settlements, new different amounts of money being received by the state. Those tried to get an update in and so those were sent out. Again, many will look identical, but that information has been received. It just hasn't been reviewed. I just wanted you to know.

Speaker 1 I appreciate that very much and if I could address that as well. Indeed, that information with event on June 24th and it was sent again this weekend. It would be nice to have someone lead us through that discussion. I hesitate to do that because it's not my.

Speaker 6 But maybe what we could do. Complying with open meetings law in terms of notice, but using the flexibility for teleconferencing or video conferencing, doing some sort of fiscal only presentation that's live streamed and is connected virtually. I obviously am not going to put forward a date because Peggy is sick and I don't want to set up any type of situation where she is yet again, not available. But, you know, maybe that's a way to address it in between whatever the next meeting.

Speaker 1 I think that that's certainly something worth considering and I would support that. I would tell you that there was also a lot of information sent out about the different settlements and the projections over the years and the different amounts to the counties. And I will tell you, I know that personally before I spent an enormous amount of time trying to make sense of it and actually was able to but again, don't want to speak on behalf of of budget. But I guess to Dr. Watkins point, I would add only that to remind people, as Deborah said, that there is some information out there, but we don't have yet a walking through of it. And if we could get Peggy to do that, perhaps as you're recommending, Tricia, I would be in support of that.

Speaker 2 Can I clarify just one thing? So aside from the the numbers, right, which are sort of static, like they're flowing, but it's going to be a sort of straightforward presentation. I think that there are a number of us who also are looking for the specificity of the score card. Yes. And I don't know if that comes from DOB or if that comes from the agencies that are lined out in the report.

Speaker 1 So if I if I could, I would just say that in my discussion with Peggy, in anticipation of her coming here, my understanding was that she would if we let her finally

get to her presentation and also address the questions around the scorecard, which had been gone through a number of iterations. And my last understanding was that everything on the scorecard was open for discussion. I believe she was going to lead that discussion and Anne then Joyce. And then obviously.

Speaker 4 I think there's an important question about discussion and ability to opine on what the items are. I personally have no interest in discussing or opining and decisions that have been made and are not going to be unmade. It's a waste of time. It is what it is, and I'm not going to be a participant in discussing, approving, agreeing, whatever that is. It is. It is what it is. Perhaps I want to know, are we talking what are we talking about? Our work is just reviewing and and consulting because I've heard different words. Consult, discuss.

Speaker 1 We thought. You saw my letter. I asked in particular that there are some very specific words that you could drive a truck through in terms of interpreting and that what I was hoping for as well. But I do think that when you say you're not willing to talk or you're not interested in talking about things that have already been decided. Mm hmm. My growing hope since the last meeting had been that perhaps everything hasn't been decided.

Speaker 6 And I can confirm that.

Speaker 1 And that's what we need to hear so that we cannot project that we cannot.

Speaker 6 With the exception of the money that does not flow through the state because it goes separately to the localities. You guys are able to provide recommendations, but they need to be in writing.

Speaker 1 Right. But I think that that that was where we were on the verge of that. What I was hoping would happen today or actually yesterday, and perhaps we can have that done through some sort of virtual presentation. Joyce.

Speaker 4 I have one other thing. One other quick thing. I certainly wish Peggy a speedy recovery and and hope that she's okay. That being said, there needs to be somebody else prepared to step in and present the financials because we can never. My company. Your company, we can't all just depend on one person to run the business of the state, the organization, our families. Right. So I would respectfully request that somebody else get primed and prepared if she's unable to hope, she's fine, by the way.

Speaker 1 Agreed on both counts.

Speaker 7 Even at the last meeting. Sure. At the last meeting, we I you followed up on our request to hear from the legislature and the lawyers for the legislature. And you sent an email. And I don't think we followed up on this meeting as to what the response was. We certainly haven't seen them here. So would you please tell us what you share with us, what their response was, and then let us consider that in our what steps we want to take with that.

Speaker 1 Yeah. Well, I think I did a few moments ago. There wasn't a lot. Yeah, I think I did a few moments ago. I could say it again. There wasn't there wasn't anything substantially changing our direction. I wrote to the speaker and I wrote to the Senate and the Assembly, and I went as high as I could and down into the counsel's office through the

Ways and Means Committee. And the Finance Committee took a while to find out who all those people were and what their contact information was. And you saw the email I wrote. I tried to do it in a thoughtful way that reflected our questions. I got a call from the Secretary of either the Finance or the Ways and Means Committee. Ways and Means, who acknowledged receipt, said that the scorecard is an extension of the the letter. The side letter is an extension of the law, and that it was their understanding that there had been a lot of behind the scenes discussions in those days, around the time that I sent it, and that to be prepared to come and talk about everything on the scorecard, there was no guidance. There was no accepting of an invitation to come. There was there was a reminder that the AG was not is not part of the budget process, which I think we know and that, you know. So I thank them and didn't make a big deal out of it because there wasn't a lot of substance to the response.

Speaker 7 I have to follow up and I appreciate the answer. I'm sorry. I didn't hear it earlier.

Speaker 1 That's right. Why?

Speaker 7 I was distracted. And so if I understand you correctly and perhaps the Ms.. Allan can confirm that, is that we that the scorecard is up for our discussion.

Speaker 1 That was what I was understanding from Peggy, from my contact with the Senate or Assembly person. And I think that's what Tricia saying.

Speaker 2 Can Ms.. Allen clarify.

Speaker 1 And that and that's.

Speaker 4 Why. In writing.

Speaker 1 All right. And that and that's why I was actually excited for these two day meetings, but probably why I'm off a little disappointed.

Speaker 2 Can I just have one point of clarification on the scorecard? So I think the reason why for me, I was looking for a presentation and you can correct me if I'm wrong because there's a lot of information that swirls. She's looking like, what's it going to be? So if there were any substantial changes to the allocations, for example, if there something specifically line item. Like, I don't know, the tuition credits or whatever that last line was. And we decided that we were recommending not to do that. Let's say I'm picking one out of the hat because it's easy to think about if if there was an agreement by Oasis that that would change that, because it was in that scorecard and that scorecard, it was part of the legislative budget that it would require a change on their end so that it was more complicated than just a typical recommendation that's in the larger pot.

Speaker 6 It would require additional steps. Yeah.

Speaker 2 So that's why I think for me, if people are wondering why I'm so like buttoned up on that particular score card and part of money is that if we were going to make recommendations that different than expanded treatment, which is a big block of 60 to 60 million that we're trying to get defined but can recommend on some of those line items are a bit wonky or right that they require more than just changing the recommendation which.

Speaker 1 Definitely for the record, I, I stand with you on exactly that question. I think open for discussion is also a term that you could drive a truck through. So I was hoping that we would get what open for discussion meant when we heard from the DOB. But that's exactly where I've left off on this. And I think that's the information we need to know. Avi, yes.

Speaker 3 I I'd like to know since Peggy has been sick for a couple of days and I wish her well. Why is the Mohican here? Mike. Can he take over for Peggy? That's one. The other question that seems like. I want to put it in a polite way. There seems to be all kind of games being played here. You know, we we could have been. A lot of things could have been settled in March and so on. We you know, every day there's another thing coming up, every meeting, there's something else that keeps coming up. Do we have the power? Can we get a attorney that can represent us and. And start forcing. Some of the agency to, you know, play fair. Because it seems like we're a bunch of folks over here that got elected. We seem to take our job very seriously. And like I said yesterday, it's a little disappointing that we all take the time, but we haven't seen a commissioner in here. You know, you have whatever whatever her job is or whatever it is. Her boss could have been here. Her boss could have got married. And Rob Mojica. You know, he's a guy that that probably put the whole budget together. Why isn't he here? Why isn't somebody else here that can explain that? I guess we are. We're going to go another month. And by the time we make our recommendation and I know that's going to be a war because New York state government is going to object to a lot of the stuff that we are going to want to bring up. We're going to drag this until past November. So can we. Can we maybe get an attorney, maybe get something, somebody that represent us to New York State and maybe get this wagon moving a little faster?

Speaker 1 I hear the question. I don't have an answer for you, but I have a different, um, a different way of looking at this. If you allow me interested to hear what you all think. Whether we have \$40 million or \$285 million or \$1,000,000,000. All of those are numbers that we have been talking about. What we identify as important and what we prioritize and how we identify the things that need to go immediately and the things that can wait has no bearing on whether she is here today or whether her boss is here today. I can't answer. I'm hoping, you know, I told you yesterday all that this is my just my personal way of trying to get through the day. I'll give everyone the benefit of the doubt until proven otherwise. I don't know where Monica is. I don't know how thick Peggy is. They're not here. We still have that same work to do, whether it's \$1,000,000 or \$40 million or \$1,000,000,000. So I appreciate the question. And I do. I've told you I feel as best I can. Your frustration. But let's make the rest of today.

Speaker 3 Okay. So how about this, Steve? How about we start setting dates? For the future. So we could give the sick and everybody else a chance to heal. And let's get some people here who can make decisions and make sure that they're here, because we're going to have to take some time off and be here for for two days. And I would like to get the money this year out this year. And I think everybody in this table would like to see the same thing that the money gets to the people this year. Okay. We all know that, you know, fighting city hall or county hall or New York state government or whatever it is is a frustrating situation. But I think that, you know what, we need to start using firecrackers to get people moving. So how about start setting days for it for the next few meetings and getting the folks that are supposed to be here? Here. And you know what? I would like to invite the media and how to get them in here so everybody can see what's going on. Well, wait a minute, Steve. Wait a minute. You know. Everybody that's in this table. I think all the people who were selected just to sit as members want to see things happening. Okay. We

don't have government jobs. I don't punch in at nine and punch out at five and then forget about everything and go home. All of us deal with this on a daily basis. It's frustrating. We deal with sick people. We, you know, we have to listen to people crying. We have to listen to families with broken heart. And I think the desire for us is to help. Okay. If I could see the same thing coming from New York State, I would love it. So if we start setting some dates, get some people in here and let's get some money out. And tell us how you're going to get the money out and how you're going to divide the money out. And if we have recommendation, are you going to accept them or just throw them in the garbage can? You know, that's what I wanted to see.

Speaker 1 I was hoping that before we left today, we would have a meeting set for the rest of the time. And for the record, although I understand your sentiment, I think for many of us at this table, it's not a 9 to 5 commitment. So just so you understand that.

Speaker 3 Bill, Steve, I'm not saying that that for many of us, it's not 9 to 5. I'm saying what I see, it's just it's just a phrase.

Speaker 1 I'm just highlighting. All right.

Speaker 3 You know, we don't have to get hung up on words. What I would like to see is a little more urgency. We have a mother over here that spoke to us that lost her son. Yes, we did. If anybody did not feel the pain that that woman is feel, then get the hell out of this room. Thank you, Steve. In line with what Ari has been saying, I think the board members should that. I say Ari, I meant Harvey. I'm sorry. No, I go for Ari. It's okay. I'm trying. But when they call me for supper, I answer to lots of names. But the point I wanted to make is that the board was created by an act of the legislature. I think we have to treat the legislature as allies, and I think we have to go running back to our representatives in the assembly and the New York State Senate. One thing I've known, I learned in 25 years of being an outside contractor in other roles with the New York State Government, is that all the agencies respond promptly to inquiries from our legislators. Another thing in line with that, Ari was talking about some kind of support by counsel.

Speaker 1 And we just have one speaker, please.

Speaker 3 Ari mentioned obtaining support from counsel. One of the ways we might do that is to solicit some help from some of our friendly legislators. Many of us have good working relationships with people in the legislature. Their staffs are very knowledgeable. You know, questions like Tricia was able to answer, you know, about public office law and things like that, but other questions that seem problematic, we may be able to go to the source and get very informed advice. So that's my thought that we should view the legislature as an ally and a resource going forward. We should be on the phone with the legislative staff that we're acquainted with. Let them know what we think is going wrong and right and not be shy about asking for help. Thank you, Bill. Debbie.

Speaker 4 Thank you. Good morning, folks. Just wanting to go back to a point that Stephanie made earlier. If we are really thinking about some sort of presentation, special presentation, fiscal presentation that we also keep in mind to include from the department, from the various state departments, to talk to us a little bit more in detail about the programs that they identified on that scorecard. So it's not only, you know, what's important to us, it's not only about talking about the money that they have identified, but also the bucket that they are putting it in to. Describe to us a little bit more about that,

because I think it's important, at least for me, we are still uninformed as to what Oasis Audio or any of the other state departments are thinking about how to spend these funds.

Speaker 1 So it's interesting, Deb, you've reminded me that, um. If we were to look at the scorecard and everything was open for discussion, we still have to be cognizant of the fact that we don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater. There may there may be things on there that we would have put on if we had given the opportunity. So an open discussion of those items. I agree. Yes.

Speaker 4 Anne, so I want to say that I feel this frustration. And I don't want I don't like any group that I participate in for people to not think is as important as I think it is. However, it is the nature of the beast. Right, that it's more important to some than it is to others. And and it usually shows up in a group through behavior and through participation and through investment and engagement and all those other things. I guess the other thing I want to say is the last thing I want is a lawyer in here, just me. I'd rather take full responsibility for making decisions without a lawyer and be self empowered than to have other people try to try to impose that process. Lastly, I want to say, okay, we don't have budget information. We have an opportunity here to get start to put some meat on the bones and a framework of the priorities. We've talked a lot about it. It's time to move on. And we are all a group and the state is part of the same group. Right? We are just one group. And until people prove themselves unworthy. Group members, I don't even know what you do about that in a board like this, but that has. We have a group and we've made our point about the designee and consistency and showing up and materials. And yes, all the points have been made. We all need to try to do our best to achieve what's important to the group. But I just want to suggest that we try to move beyond that for today so that we don't waste another couple of hours. I agree with you.

Speaker 1 Thank you very much. Ashley had a hand up for a while. Ioh, tracy go ahead.

Speaker 7 Okay. Thank you, Ashley. I just want to ask all of us to be careful with our language. Everyone of us here is an expert. Everyone here is an expert.

Speaker 1 So again, please.

Speaker 7 I said I want us to be careful with our language. Everyone here is an expert. Not one of us is unworthy. We have we are experts in our field. And an unworthy is is a a character flaw. And we we and I expect this chair and all of us to expect that the level of conversation among us to remain at a level of respectability. I am make exceptions for sometimes passion and and you know other slight words that just simply a venting but not I don't make an exception with anything that characterizes our character in ways that that is just simply unacceptable at this table. Second point is, is that, you know, my agency has a house council. I don't know about anyone else's agency, but I think that we all hire house counsel because we are we we have limits in our own expertise and we want to protect our agencies and our interests. And and and let's face it, we all have different agencies and different interests. And so I am supportive of the request to invite an independent counsel here that would offer us perhaps what either reinforce the current understanding of that we have or that would offer or inform us of the vagaries within the language and where we are, and let us take a position. I think being informed is the best position that we can be and and asking for that is not meant to be adversarial is just simply what we would do in our own agencies. So whether we decide on that or not, I think that the motion has been made. I don't know if it's emotion, but but has the request has been made and it was actually made last meeting by actually, I think it was who had mentioned that. And all I

want to say is, is let's keep it professional, let's hear it up. One, don't have to be adversarial to want to know and I think house count our come the council here would agree that having another perspective is not meant to be adversarial. It's just simply to inform us. I mean, I don't know what I don't know. And I'd like someone to be there and tell me there's a space here. Thank you. Thank you.

Speaker 1 Ashley.

Speaker 5 Well, first, I'll just say that I love attorneys. Anybody that's ever been criminal justice involved really loves attorneys. Because without them, you get a long trip. So anyways, but that's not what I was going to say. So, you know, I keep hearing, you know, the score card and we could see, you know, it'll be great right when we get the presentation. But what I want to say is, like, I keep hearing urgency, right? I heard it from Avi. I heard it from everybody. So I just think and I know that we have other agenda items, so maybe we could look at the minutes, right? We can approve them and then like let's. Move on with the agencies that we have in the room, because we have valuable agencies that can give presentations that can help us to make informed decisions. And then once we have the presentation, you know, if it's something that we would like to keep, we could keep it. But at least we then know from our age and your age. And you know what I mean, like. Does that make sense? Ashley. So can I make a motion to go over the minutes?

Speaker 1 Can I. Can I. Can I just say that it made sense the first time you said it this morning, and it makes sense again, and I'd like to get there. Okay. Thank you very much. And we will look at the minutes in a moment and the other thoughts, comments. Oh, I'm sorry, Justine. Good morning, Justine and Dr. Easterling. So we ignored you there.

Speaker 4 It's no problem. I think. I think my lack of understanding of government is. Where potentially for me it's felt like slightly adversarial in a situation with like Tracy and Tricia and I apologized for that. It's more that it seems like, I think in government it feels and I think this is how government works. But I think that what everyone's alluding to is it feels like a conflict of interest, that the agency that's holding the money is the agency that's advising. If that makes sense.

Speaker 6 So and I will just respond to that with a couple of clarifications. The first is of the agency that has to constitute you. We are required to provide you with staff. It's in the statute. And it is correct that with the way the other boards function. In addition to that, should you choose to look for outside counsel. You can choose to do that.

Speaker 4 But I would.

Speaker 6 Note there would be a fiscal impact to that.

Speaker 4 Right. And and I think that what I'm not trying to say something personal. What I'm trying to just say is I think that that may be what's being alluded to here, which is it would be nice to have an independent opinion to help. That's all I'm saying. Not that. It just it just feels like there could be a conflict there. My apologies.

Speaker 1 Sorry. Thank you, Justin. Joyce.

Speaker 7 Given everyone. And just to let you know that I also took notes and I've sent everyone an email with the notes that I took. And I also added that I welcome others who

took notes just simply to get a more comprehensive view of what was discussed yesterday.

Speaker 1 Thank you. Thank you very much. Let's move on to to look at the minutes from the last meeting, please. We distributed them yesterday and then asked you to review them. You only come in through discussion before we make a motion. These are the minutes of the June. What's the date that. June 28th. These were handed out midday yesterday and we asked you to take them home with you. Hopefully you did that.

Speaker 4 I sent an email to Tracy. I think that there's just a clarification on the bylaws. I submitted the bylaws and actually, I think edited or highlighted areas where there were changes. So there were two documents that.

Speaker 1 Tracey, did we get that from Justine?

Speaker 4 Can we just. I'm sorry. Just because I can just send it. Justine, can you just just explain exactly how you wanted to read? And I'm happy to make the change. Can you just identify.

Speaker 7 Exactly how it should read?

Speaker 4 I just want to make sure it's it's correct. I think it's just the bylaws were were submitted by Justine Waldman, and there was and a second version with highlighted which highlighted the changes to the original bylaws were submitted by Ashlee Livingston. I think that as could come from Stephanie and I was that and I think Ashlee must have had time to do something like that. Okay. I will make that change for you. Appreciate it.

Speaker 1 Thank you, Justine. Other other comments?

Speaker 7 Steven, I have a I don't know what the procedure is, but I had after I read the bylaws, I, I had been unable to attend the first meeting. And so I wanted it noted that I had not it was excused, I suppose, because I am I was out of the country and I asked to participate via remote video conferencing. It was rejected, but I since were counting absences. I just wanted to make sure that for the record that I, I, I, I attempted to attend a meeting that was the first meeting. So I'm.

Speaker 1 So your point is simply that for the first meeting you are technically excused.

Speaker 7 Yes, correct.

Speaker 4 But it shouldn't count toward.

Speaker 5 One of the absences.

Speaker 1 Because she had a note.

Speaker 7 Yes, it was. It was an email.

Speaker 4 The only time there's an issue is unexcused absences. Anyway, people can you know, if people can say they're not available, that doesn't.

Speaker 7 Count. All right. Well, I just notified. I want to make sure that I exercise. Of course. Thank you. Yeah, no need to.

Speaker 3 Thank you very much.

Unidentified Good morning

Speaker 2 Hi. I was listening to what you were all saying on my drive in here, because I live about an hour away from here. I live in a rural community that has nothing virtually. We have a mental health clinic. We have a substance use clinic. We have no transportation for any any children or anyone to get to and from anywhere. We have no housing. The kids come out of in-patient or rehab or whatever, and they get sent to a motel where they get drugs. So I would like to remind everyone here and I'm nervous and I'm angry that this is money that doesn't really belong to New York State. It belongs to everyone who died from an overdose. It belongs to our kids. It belongs to our loved ones. And what I hear here is people want money for all of their agencies, which is great, but the money belongs to our children. And the longer that you procrastinate, the longer more people die. And I am angry. And I'm hurt. I know that the system has failed my son. I failed my son. I'm a registered nurse. I couldn't even save my kid no matter what I did. I spent years taking him to and from inpatient psych, inpatient rehab, the criminal justice system. He became psychotic in jail. The system failed. All the agencies failed. And people still want money for their agencies. We live in a small area. Please, please do a job that can respect our loved ones. My child, our children. I beg of you. Move it along, please. It's their money. It's not New York State's money.

Speaker 1 Thank you. Thank you.

Speaker 3 I hope she wakes up, everybody. I really hope she wakes up every body because I feel the same way. 11 years for me. Nothing has changed. Still the same crap. Oh. And that people are sick. And, you know, they're not saying that Peggy is not sick. I'm just saying. Let's move. For God's sake, let's move. If somebody's sick. Get somebody to fill in. You know, it's the same thing that she feels, I feel, and thousands of people in New York State feels. My son was told there was no bed within less than 5 minutes. That poor kid took a shotgun and blew his head up. You know what if what a room looks like after use a shotgun. You scrape pieces of bone off the wall. And that's happening every single day. And I get people sitting over here with stone faces and not willing to goddamn do something about it. Let's move. For God's sake, let's start doing something. Let's get some people in here that can make a decision. Let's get this money out to the people who need it. Those people still alive. And still want to get into treatment and still need mental health. But we have a god damned system that is not patient friendly. And the worst that the worst obstacles that get in front of a person that needs treatment is government itself. How many more kids? Have to die before people in that Capitol building wake up. How many poor more families have to sit and stare at an empty chair? Before some of these people around here. Give me a goddamn stern look. A blank look. How long before we help? So we're sitting over here, wasted two days. We get nothing done. Okay. Where? We should have been doing this. Four months ago. You know. Steve, you are the chair, and I have the utmost respect for you and Deb. But somebody needs to goddamn get down there and says, let's get the people in here, because the next meeting over here, we want to talk about disbursement of money. Thank you.

Speaker 5 Ashley as an individual that was prescribed into addiction, this is just as important to me. And you're right, it is our money, my whole generation. So with that, I

want to get to the meat and potatoes. So what I'm going to do is I'm going to make a motion that with the amendment that Dr. Waldman proposed. We accept our minutes and move on to presentation so that we can see.

Speaker 4 Second.

Speaker 5 Thank you.

Speaker 1 Thank you. Motion by Ashley Livingston, seconded by the Deb penton. Any abstentions? All in favour. Motion is passed. Thank you so much for that.

Speaker 5 Can I make a request?

Speaker 4 If the next order of business is to review the notes. They were not intended to be all inclusive. And even when I look at them quickly, I was working late and I was on an iPad like stupid wording. I would ask everybody just so that we don't get into that, the niggling over the work. So if we can begin to kind of like a Polaroid picture, pull together our thoughts in notes into something that is meaningful. This is I certainly didn't intend to speak for me. And these were the notes I took that everybody else was saying.

Speaker 1 Ane, thank you. And it's worth repeating this. This is a discussion, not a wordsmithing exercise. We were yesterday trying to collect the themes that we thought were important to shape any of our recommendations. And I'll remind you what I urge you to consider earlier this morning, whether it's \$40 million or billion dollars, we still have to come up with a prioritization of what we think will most quickly and effectively touch people's lives in a in a in a way that is healing. So I think we can move forward with that discussion. And if we'd like to just review this list, that'd be fine, just as you have something to say.

Speaker 2 Steve, I have a question. Can we like is this it's live. That document is like trace that on your computer. Is it somebody who can type into it? So, I mean, I think maybe just because I know Joyce and stuff, I'm in the middle of typing an email, maybe we can just grab popcorn around the room for things that people think are missing so that we can bolster that and then not. I don't.

Speaker 1 Know the answer to that question, not.

Speaker 4 With added through. I'm not showing that.

Speaker 2 I just saw a cursor. So I wasn't sure if that cursor was live rollout level.

Speaker 4 Yeah. Yeah.

Speaker 5 So it's live over there.

Speaker 2 Yeah. So can somebody sit over there and type in your phone? Oh, I can even just come.

Speaker 3 Over here all.

Speaker 2 I just think it's easier then.

Speaker 1 I don't I don't have a problem with that.

Speaker 2 But your question is and you could with that.

Speaker 4 I can do it. Oh.

Speaker 1 I would prefer it if he would do it. Thank you. We can we could do it up here.

Speaker 4 Yeah. Okay.

Speaker 7 So, Tracey, would you please ad copy and paste my comments to that document?

Speaker 5 She just emailed.

Speaker 7 That's very well I emailed it.

Speaker 4 Yeah. Then he has to. I think you have to add another document from here. Or you can do everything. Anything one of is.

Speaker 7 It's a copy and paste.

Speaker 4 But I think you have to do it now.

Speaker 1 Yeah, right. So.

Speaker 7 Do you want me? Can you give me your email so that I could send it to you? So this way we don't have to waste time in. I mean, we're talking about the tech.

Speaker 4 It's not that I don't have it. I have it.

Speaker 1 Can you? Good morning, Dr. Brown. I see you've joined us up there. We missed you earlier.

Speaker 3 That's quite all right. Glad they have me. Now. That's most important.

Speaker 1 Glad you're here. Thank you. I give us a moment to.

Speaker 4

Speaker 7 It is. And it's, it's, it's, it's, it's it's it's. It's not about wordsmithing either. It's about. I think.

Speaker 3 It's. No, no, we. We, we've, we've.

Speaker 1 We've got it. We've got it. We just. We just need to take one. We take our break now. It's it's ten of us come back at five after. Yeah, yeah.