

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center on its 61st Annual Meeting, and paying tribute to the 2014 honorees

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center on its 61st Annual Meeting to be celebrated on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, and to pay tribute to the 2014 honorees; and

WHEREAS, The North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center celebrates 60 years of service to the Long Island community; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, The North Shore Child and Family Guidance Association was officially incorporated as the result of a grassroots movement of parents seeking to fill the gap in mental health services for children; in 1956, it opened in Great Neck as the first independent community-supported mental health clinic in Nassau County, and six months later, the Center moved to a larger facility in Manhasset, New York; and

WHEREAS, Other clinics opened in Port Washington and Roslyn, and in 1984, the name of the organization was changed to North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center; and

WHEREAS, Five years later, North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center was awarded a chemical dependency license, and began to offer outpatient services for youths in New Cassel; the program later became the first in New York State to be awarded an Outpatient Chemical Dependency for Youth License; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, the Intensive Support Program, a school-based mental health partnership with Nassau BOCES, initiated the only service of its kind in New York State; and

WHEREAS, After the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center was selected as a FEMA-funded Project Liberty agency, providing mental health care for traumatized and bereaved children and families; their work was featured on a primetime television documentary; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, The Lucille and Martin E. Kantor Bereavement & Trauma Center opened on the North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center's main campus in Roslyn Heights, housing the Schnurmacher Family Bereavement and Trauma Program; and

WHEREAS, Six years later, this worthy organization formed research partnerships with the New York University Child Study Center, the New York State Psychiatric Institute, Columbia University, and the New York State Office of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center offered its first service in Suffolk County, a partnership with the Wyandanch School District, to provide crisis counseling for children at risk; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, after Hurricane Sandy, North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center was selected as a FEMA-funded Project Hope agency, providing crisis counseling for devastated families throughout Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, The North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center continues to respond to record numbers of emergency calls, and recently, the Fay J. Lindner Triage and Emergency Services Program was named; and

WHEREAS, This year's honorees include: Paul Vitale, Vice President and former Treasurer, NSC & FGC, recipient of the Distinguished Service

Award; Karen A. Ellis, Executive Director, Nassau BOCES Department of Special Education, recipient of the Distinguished Partner Award; Dr. Carmine J. Scerra, Assistant Director, Nassau BOCES Department of Special Education, recipient of the Distinguished Partner Award; Dr. James R. Dolan, Jr., Director of the Nassau County Office of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services, recipient of the Public Service Award; Debbie Kassimir, Staff Award; and Paul Tripodi, Staff Award; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the following individuals will be recognized for their 25 years of outstanding service to the North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center: Tyrone Anthony, Regina Barros, Pat Byrnes, Lee Holtzman, Anne Moraski, and Dr. Nellie Taylor-Walthrust; and

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center on its 61st Annual Meeting, and paying tribute to the 2014 honorees; and it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, and the aforementioned honorees.