



Social Services

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Christopher Johnson

800 Michaelan Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, October 4, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

The County Board will meet pursuant to Chapter 417 of New York State Laws of 2021, allowing public bodies to meet and take action without permitting in-person public access to meetings and authorizes such meetings and public hearings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided the public has the ability to view or listen and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

With a quorum present, Vice Chair Covill called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislator Maher, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Walter, Legislator Parker, Alessandra Restiano, Yolanda Valencia and Dayana Gómez; GUESTS: Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden

Present: Committee Vice-Chair Covill, Legislator Borgia and Legislator Boykin

Remote: Committee Chair Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Shimsky, Legislator Tubiolo and Legislator Williams

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [2021-514](#) **ACT-Grant Agrmnt & IMAs-Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Prgm.**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into (i) a grant agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to accept grant funds to continue a Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program and (ii) to enter into inter-municipal agreements with the Cities of Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, Port Chester, White Plains and Yonkers for services to be funded with the grant funds.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND SENIORS, YOUTH & INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICES AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Joint with the Committees on Budget & Appropriations and Seniors, Youth and Intergenerational Services

Guest:

Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, Executive Director, Youth Bureau

Dr. Harris-Madden explained that this request grants permission to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to accept grant funding for the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program, currently serving Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, Port Chester, White Plains and

Yonkers. Through trainings and opportunities, this program intends to delay the onset of sexual activity by becoming involved in positive youth development activities and programming, such as health relationship workshops, career awareness and leadership programming. They provide programming through the Youth Bureaus in addition to collaborating with the Nepperhan Community Center and the One Love Foundation. They provide paid employment, internships and job shadowing opportunities. They also provide the Ready Attributes curriculum, which helps them develop soft skills while focusing on graduating as their ultimate goal. Last year they served 135 youths and received positive feedback from most of them, part of the impact was due to COVID as it affected the timeline of the project. The program is evidence based and scientifically accurate, ensuring that young men and women are properly educated. This year the focus is more workforce development and healthy relationship focused. Since the funding for this program is not limiting in terms of reach, they are trying to expand to other municipalities such as Mount Kisco by way of the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester, and other organizations. Each organization receives approximately \$30,000 for programming, staff and training. They are continuing to apply for additional funding to grow this program and the opportunities that it provides to the youth.

On motion of Legislator Boykin, seconded by Committee Chair Johnson, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Johnson, Committee Vice-Chair Covill, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Shimsky, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams and Legislator Boykin

WO Prejudice:

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Covill, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the Committee adjourned at 11:58am.