

Families Task Force

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Task Force Co-Chairs:
Nancy Barr & Kathy Halas

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
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Thursday, November 6, 2025

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:00 AM

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A presentation of Westchester County's Youth Bureau programs and services

Guests:

Youth Bureau Executive Director Ernest McFadden

The meeting focused on the Youth Bureau's initiatives to address the growing needs of young people through community collaboration, emphasizing mental health, economic security, and the importance of play.

The Youth Bureau serves approximately 100,000 young people annually through various community partnerships. Key focus areas include economic security, health programs, education, and after-school initiatives. The bureau has experienced a 40% increase in applicants for funding, indicating growing community needs. Collaboration with community partners is essential to address challenges and ensure equitable access to services. Youth employment programs emphasize financial literacy and provide paid opportunities critical for college applications. Mental health training and referrals are integrated into programming to support youth in distress. Focus on reducing screen time and promoting balance in youth lives is essential. Engaging young people and families in discussions about screen time is a priority. Parents express anxiety about communication and safety during school crises. Programs addressing mental health awareness and family engagement are increasingly necessary.

At the end of the meeting, an update on Disconnect to Reconnect was given. There is an upcoming screening of "The Upside of Downtime" documentary which will explore the neuroscience of play. In April there will be a conference targeting a broad audience, including professionals, parents, and corporate representatives. View the full discussion here: https://westchestercountyny.granicus.com/player/clip/7999?view_id=1&redirect=true.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM