

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
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Thursday, March 6, 2025

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Co-Chair Barr called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

Others in Attendance:

GUESTS: Kathy Halas, Kerry Megley, Liz Mastropolo, Faith Ann Butcher, Janet Donat, John Befus, Carola Bracco, Damian Garcia, Cindy Kanusher, Josephine Keocho, Laura Newman, Jennifer Polanco-Calderon, Haydee Davila, Dejeana Peoples, Rachel Halperin, Allison Lake,

BOL: Legislator David Imamura, Lisa Hochman, Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Woodson-Samuels

This meeting began at 10:04 AM

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Presentations and updates on new initiatives and immigration

Disconnect to Reconnect Update: Janet Donat, Westchester Library System

Growing Together Update: Faith Ann Butcher, United Way of Westchester and Putnam

Immigration Update: Elizabeth Mastropolo, Neighbors Link

The meeting discussed initiatives for children's screen time alternatives, caregiver resources, immigration procedures, and community education.

The "Disconnect to Reconnect" initiative aims to provide alternatives to screen time for children and educate parents. The initiative involves distributing kits with fun activities and information cards to parents and caregivers. The goal is to launch the initiative in April and engage community partners for support and funding.

Growing Together initiative provides easy access to information for caregivers of newborns and young children.

The website is inclusive, with options for different languages and accessibility features.

The initiative includes resources on postpartum care and plans to launch in April.

Stakeholders discussed immigration changes in New York. The New York immigration court may become a pilot location for expedited removal, allowing for quicker deportations without due process. Affirmative immigration applications that are denied now automatically place individuals in removal proceedings.

Neighbors Link is offering consultations for immigration and safety plans, with contact information provided.

They can schedule legal and safety plan clinics for communities within 2-3 weeks.

It is important to educate community members about their constitutional rights and provide resources for safety plans.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting ended at 11:16 AM.