



Budget & Appropriations

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Vedat Gashi

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

Monday, April 18, 2022

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with the Committees on Public Safety, Health, and Seniors & Youth

This meeting will be held pursuant to Chapter 56 of the New York State Laws of 2022, which authorize any public body to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public-in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

With a quorum present, Legislator Woodson-Samuels called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

Others in Attendance:

Present: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Smith, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Remote: Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky and Legislator Tubiolo

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2022-34](#) **IMA-Police Officer Training Courses & Drills-Municipalities**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into intermunicipal agreements whereby police officers from municipalities in Westchester County and certain municipalities in Putnam and Dutchess Counties will teach police officer training courses at the Police Academy in Valhalla, New York and/or at other locations, for a term of five years commencing on March 21, 2022 and continuing through March 20, 2027.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Guests: Department of Public Safety - Lt. Nicholas Alongi, Siva Gopalkrishna, Director of Administrative Services

Lieutenant Nick Alongi and Director of Administrative Services Siva Gopalkrishna appeared before the Committee to discuss item #2022-176-IMA-Police Officer Training Courses & Drills-Municipalities. This IMA is between the County of Westchester and the municipalities in Westchester County as well as with the Counties of Dutchess and Putnam, the Town of Carmel, and/or the Town of Kent, whereby police officers from such municipalities, who are certified police instructors, will teach police officer training courses and drills at the County's police academy in Valhalla, New York and/or at other locations, for a term of five years

commencing on March 21, 2022 and continuing through March 20, 2027.

Lieutenant Alongi discussed that under NYS Law, newly appointed police officers of any county, city, town, village or police district must satisfactorily complete an approved municipal police basic training program within 12 months of being hired. Police officers are also required from time to time to take additional training courses as part of their ongoing training and employment requirements. Westchester County's Police Academy is the NYS Police Training Academy responsible for training officers throughout Zone 3, which includes Westchester and Putnam Counties, in order to satisfy these training requirements. Although the Police Academy is primarily staffed with police officers assigned from within the Department of Public Safety, certified police instructors from other local law enforcement agencies are often utilized to supplement the County's police instructors. This collaborative effort enables the Police Academy to use local experts and provide superior training opportunities to law enforcement officers throughout Westchester and the surrounding area. Director Gopalkrishna highlighted that there is no financial impact since these departments send us instructors and we allow them to use our facilities.

Your Committee has been informed that, as was the case under the prior Police Instructor IMAs, in exchange for the municipality assigning one or more of its certified police instructors to teach at the Police Academy, the County would provide defense and indemnification to the municipality for the instructor's acts or omissions while acting within the scope of his or her duties as an instructor at the Police Academy. The duty to defend and indemnify shall not arise where injury or damage resulted from intentional wrongdoing or recklessness on the part of the Instructor. In no event shall the County's obligation to provide defense and indemnification be construed to include claims arising outside the scope of the Instructor's teaching services or in connection with the instructor's travel to and from the Police Academy to carry out such teaching services. Additionally, the County shall not have any obligation to the municipality or its instructor for any claim raised or benefits provided pursuant to New York General Municipal Law Section 207-c. If an instructor is injured during the time he or she is teaching at the Police Academy, it is understood that the instructor, as an employee of the Municipality, would be covered under the Municipality's workers compensation policy.

Legislator Barr asked what are the qualifications for having instructors from other Departments come and teach at our facilities? Lieutenant Alongi responded that they have to pass the NYSDCJS and be a approved general topics instructor, including a two week course where they must prove that they are able to put together a lesson plan, show that they can teach and are able to speak in front of people, as well as show that they can effectively get their point and lessons across to the students. He noted that we bring them in ourselves to show us that they are able to convey these points and our master instructors are constantly evaluating their performance. He highlighted that many times these instructors have a specialty that is their focus and/or have degrees in an area of study.

Legislator Smith asked if the instructors from outside our County staff enhance our capabilities on topics like diversity, racial sensitivity, and things of that nature. Lieutenant Alongi responded that they certainly do. They are able to bring in a variety of instructors from a variety of backgrounds, which greatly enhances the teaching that is offered by the academy.

Legislator Shimsky asked if we conduct screening for the instructors to make sure they have

no ties to extremist groups such as white supremacists? Lieutenant Alongi responded that there is no secondary screening, that takes place during the hiring process. He also added that the County staff has the discretion to remove instructors that they feel don't portray the values we are tasked with upholding.

Legislator Maher asked about training for pre-textual traffic stops and foot pursuits? Lieutenant Alongi responded that pre-textual traffic stops are taught by ADAs during recruit school. Foot pursuits are covered under a variety of topics such as during the professional communications, de-escalation, procedural justice, implicit bias, role playing and stop, question, frisk portions of recruit school.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Parker

2. [ACT-2022-32](#) **ACT-WCHCC-Community Mental Health Services**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation for a term from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026, pursuant to which it will provide community mental health services, including clinic treatment and court ordered assertive community treatment services to adults with serious mental illness.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND HEALTH

Guest: Department of Community Mental Health - Joe Glazer, Deputy Commissioner, Desh Edwards, Program Director

Chair Gashi invited the guests to introduce themselves and begin the discussion on the item. Deputy Commissioner Glazer shared that the department has various programs that get funded from different sources such as from State departments and the federal government. This program is administered through the unified services contract and it focuses on adult mental health for court-ordered individuals to receive out-patient services. He clarified that the title should specify that this is court ordered. Ms. Edwards added that Westchester Medical's act team is a multi-disciplinary team of 7-10 members: a psychiatrist, a nurse practitioner or registered nurse, a substance abuse specialist, a residential specialist, a vocational specialist, a housing specialist and a peer. They look for people who have tried different avenues to seek help, to no avail. This act team will meet them wherever they are and work with them on reaching the goals that they set for themselves, creating a therapeutic model that helps them in the long run.

Legislator Barr asked how many people are enrolled in the program and what is their success rate. Ms. Edwards responded that it is 68 people on a team at a time and they are supposed to be seen 6 times per month. She added that they do not have a specific rate of success to reference but they have seen a decrease in Medicaid usage for these services once they are enrolled in this program.

Legislator Maher advised that a representative from the Westchester Medical Centers should be invited to this discussion as he has several questions on the topic to ask them specifically. He suggested that there is no vote for this item until they are present. Ms. Edwards responded with confirmation that this is an effective team as she has seen it working well for individuals. She added that the Medical Center is an asset in this program and this act team stays staffed.

Legislator Williams Johnson added that the Health Committee will be inviting the Medical Center to a future meeting to discuss some of the issues mentioned today. She asked how the allotted amount funding compare to what they have received in the past and who determines the ratio per client for care. Mr. Glazer responded that the act team was created in State law as well as what their workload looks like as well.

Mr. Poovappalli added that this contract is the renewal of the contract with the Medical Center, which expired in December 31, 2020. The funding for the program comes from the State and therefore there is no impact to the County's budgets. The amount comes out of the deficit funding from the State. The program is operated through Medicaid, Medicare and third party insurances, any deficit that comes from the program is provided to from State aid.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Nay: Legislator Maher

3. [ACT-2022-38](#) **ACT-WCHCC-Add'l COVID-19 Testing Srvcs. to WCC**

AN ACT amending Act No. 2021-168, which authorized the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation, d/b/a Westchester Medical Center, for a term commencing on October 7, 2021 and expiring on October 6, 2022, for Covid-19 nasopharyngeal testing services, in order to authorize additional saliva and other COVID-19 related testing services, extend the term of the Agreement through May 12, 2023 and authorize Quadrant Biosciences as an approved subcontractor for the provision of Clarifi Covid-19 Saliva tests.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND HEALTH

Guests: Westchester Community College - Brian Murphy, Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services and CFO, Robert Cirillo, Director of Physical Plant, Campus Services & Security, Scott Sullivan, Director of Security, Stewart Glass, Director of Contracting and Procurement

Chair Gashi invited the guests to introduce themselves and begin the discussion on the item. Mr. Murphy stated that this act is meant to amend a current agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation that expires on October 6, 2022. This amendment will update the expiration date to May 12, 2023, adding specific testing technology and acknowledging that there may be future updated testing technology, in addition to hiring a sub-contractor as well.

Legislator Gashi asked if they have other dealings with the sub-contractor, to which Mr. Glass responded that there are not any others and that this is a laboratory.

Legislator Williams Johnson asked for an overview of how this works. Mr. Sullivan responded with their testing protocols on campus, in addition to their testing technology used. He added the type of testing at the Westchester Medical Center, stated that employees are 100% back to working on campus and their projections for the upcoming semesters. Chair Williams Johnson also asked how many students and faculty they have on campus. Mr. Sullivan responded that there are about 4,000 students on campus and testing about 120 per week, he does not have an exact number for employees.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

4. [ACT-2022-40](#) **IMA(Amend)-Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program-Yonkers**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to amend an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Yonkers for a Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, SENIORS & YOUTH AND HEALTH

Guest: Westchester County Youth Bureau - Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, Executive Director

Chair Gashi invited the guest to introduce themselves and begin the discussion on the item. Dr. Harris-Madden shared that on October of 2021 this item was passed by the Board of Legislators and today they would like to amend to allow the City of Yonkers to be afforded additional funding of \$30,334 added to total to amount \$60,668. They want to ensure that all dollars are spent and that its purpose is fulfilled. They are executing this program through the One Love Program which teaches the youth on healthy relationships and health y relationship building. They also use the Ready Curriculum which allows for soft skills building and preparation for employment. This allows Yonkers to afford more access for the young people who will benefit from this.

Legislator Williams Johnson asked why the Nepperhan Community Center refused the funds and Dr. Harris-Madden responded that despite her not being able to speak for them, there seems to be a capacity challenge there and after much discussion they agreed to forego the funds so that the youth can still benefit. Legislator Alvarado added that there was no animosity behind this and the Nepperhan Community Center continues to serve the youth.

Legislators shared sentiments approval on this item and Dr. Harris-Madden's efforts with the success of her work in the Youth Bureau.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

5. [ACT-2022-35](#) **IMA-Services to Seniors-Yonkers & New Rochelle**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into intermunicipal agreements with the City of Yonkers and the City of New Rochelle for the provision of outreach and other services to seniors to be funded with County tax dollars.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND SENIORS & YOUTH

Guests: Department of Senior Programs and Services - Jeanne Pici, Deputy Commissioner, Sandra Brown, Director of Program Development

Ms. Brown stated that is Act would authorize the County to enter into inter-municipal agreements with the City of New Rochelle and the City of Yonkers to continue as the livable communities regional host to provide outreach to residents to participate in access programs and services provided by the Department. This will provide public information/education that is provided through meetings, educational forums and events at which residents are educated and informed about the Department's many programs and services. They are designed to enhance the quality of life to Westchester Seniors and allow them to remain in their homes and community.

Legislator Woodson-Samuels asked how many seniors are usually contacted? Legislator Alvarado answered that the Commissioner has those numbers, and I think county wide, the number exceeds 200,000. He also stated there is a publication which also informs seniors and that the number continues to increase.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

6. [ACT-2022-36](#) **ACT-Grant Agreement-NYSOFA-Older Americans Act**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Office for the Aging to accept grant funds under Title III -B of the Older Americans Act and also to exercise the first of its four (4) one-year renewal options under inter-municipal agreements with the City of New Rochelle and the City of Yonkers for information and assistance services.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND SENIORS & YOUTH

Guests: Department of Senior Programs and Services - Jeanne Pici, Deputy Commissioner, Sandra Brown, Director of Program Development

Ms. Brown stated the New York Office for the Aging allocated funds for supportive services

under Title III-B of the Older Americans Act. This would allow inter-municipal agreement with the City of New Rochelle and the City of Yonkers to provide information and assistance services. In 2021, the City New Rochelle provided about 12,000 contacts to about 792 people. The City of Yonkers provided about 9,000 contacts to about 810 people.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Williams Johnson, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

7. [ACT-2022-37](#) **ACT-Grant Agreements-NYSOFA**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into grant agreements with the New York State Office for the Aging to accept grant funds under Titles III-B, III-C, Nutrition Services Incentive Program ("NSIP"), III-D and III-E of the Older Americans Act and also to enter into inter-municipal agreements with local municipalities for services to be funded by Titles III-B, III-C & NSIP grants under the Older Americans Act.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND SENIORS & YOUTH

Guests: Department of Senior Programs and Services - Jeanne Pici, Deputy Commissioner, Sandra Brown, Director of Program Development

Ms. Brown stated this Act would authorize the County to enter into grant agreements with the NYS Office of the Aging to accept grant funds made available to the County under Titles III-B, III-C and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program III-D, and III-E of the Older Americans Act. This will provide different services such as nutrition services, congregate and home delivered meals, equipment, supplies, vehicle expenses and transportation services to help seniors remain in their homes and community.

Legislator Barr stated on the fiscal impact statement it looks like the County puts in some money. Commissioner Pici answered the grants have mandatory match funding. In order to receive it you have to match it. It is roughly a 10 percent match.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Smith, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

8. [ACT-2022-39](#) **ACT-Enter into Grant Agrmnt.-NYSOFA-State Funding**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into grant agreements with the New York State Office for the Aging to accept grant funds from New York State under the Community Services for the Elderly Program, the Congregate Services Initiative Program, the Caregiver Resource Center Program, the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program, the New York State Transportation Program, the Wellness in Nutrition Program, the Nutrition Services Incentive Program, the Unmet Need Program, and the New York Connects

Expansion and Enhancement Program, and to also enter into inter-municipal agreements with local municipalities for services to be funded by some of said grants.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND SENIORS & YOUTH

Guests: Department of Senior Programs and Services - Jeanne Pici, Deputy Commissioner, Sandra Brown, Director of Program Development

Ms. Brown stated this is an Act to enter into grant agreements with the New York State Office for the Aging to accept funds made available to the County from New York State under the Community Services for the Elderly Program, the Congregate Services Initiative Program, the Caregiver Resource Center Program, the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program, the New York State Transportation Program, the Wellness in Nutrition Program, the Nutrition Services Incentive Program, the Unmet Need Program, and the New York Connects Expansion and Enhancement Program. These services will provide meals, nutrition education, equipment, supplies, vehicle expenses, information, assistance, and transportation.

Legislator Alvarado stated this is a direct investment in our community for our seniors.

On motion of Legislator Pierce, seconded by Legislator Smith, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Gashi, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Parker, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Shimsky, Legislator Smith, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Williams Johnson and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Smith, the Committee adjourned at 11:41am.