



Seniors, Youth & Intergenerational Services

BOL Meeting Minutes - **Final** Committee Chair Jose Alvarado

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

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting joint with the Committees on Budget & Appropriations and Public Safety.

Please Note: The public may attend at any of these addresses. The meeting will also be available online at: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

Legislator David Tubiolo will participate remotely from:
45 Wall Street Apt.703
New York, NY 10035

With a quorum present, Chair Alvarado called the meeting to order at 11:12 AM.

Others in Attendance:

Y. Valencia, J. Silverberg, D. Gomez, Patricia Tomassi, M. Montalto

Remote Attendance:

Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Parker, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Williams, Legislator Smith, Dr. DaMia Harris Madden, Bernie Dean

Present: Committee Chair Alvarado, Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Boykin

Absent: Legislator Williams

Remote: Legislator Tubiolo

MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, May 17, 2021 10 AM

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Monday, June 14, 2021 10 AM

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Tubiolo, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2021-150](#) **IMA-Project BRIGHT-Northern Westchester BOCES**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an inter-municipal Agreement with Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES (the "BOCES") pursuant to which BOCES will coordinate a portion of the Bureau of Justice Assistance's STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program.

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

Guest:

Patricia Tomassi, STOP DWI, Department of Public Safety

Legislator Alvarado opened the meeting and approved minutes. Legislator Borgia opened the discussion, Ms. Tomassi discussed Project BRIGHT, funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, is designed to improve school security by providing students and teachers with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and help prevent acts of violence. This is accomplished through the use of multidisciplinary school threat assessment trainings and mental health first aid trainings. BOCES will help to coordinate the threat assessment training portion of Project BRIGHT by hiring and overseeing the supervision of coaches and trainers; setting up threat assessment trainings at 20 public, private, parochial and charter schools throughout the County; providing technical assistance and reporting services and working with the project coordinator and evaluator to ensure that the trainings are coordinated. In consideration for providing these services, the County will pay BOCES a total amount not-to-exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$250,000.00) Dollars, payable in five (5) installments of \$50,000.00 each, in accordance with an approved payment schedule requesting that it authorize a non-competitive proposal in this case. The DOJ subsequently approved BOCES as one of the sub awardees under the grant. Coaches have been hired and trained to implement the program, due to COVID the program has not been reached in the schools. Legislator Barr asked who will be getting the Mental Health training, guidance counselors, teachers and possibly students will be able to take this training. Retired Law Enforcement have been hired as coaches to follow up on the training and meet on a regular basis for both. A team of four coaches will be assigned to schools to oversee the program throughout the schools and will work as consultants at BOCES. Legislator Alvarado asked if the program is in effect, Ms. Tomassi mentioned the grant was in effect on October 2019. Legislator Alvarado is happy for this program, the vision of preventing violence is the thing to do, the incentive is great. There are three more training sessions are pending for this year and getting into the schools to complete the program. Ms. Tomassi expressed concern for the mental health aspect of going back to school for teachers and students and this program is able to help. The committee agreed that this program will help the mental health aspect of getting back to school. Legislator Walter requested a list of the schools that will take part in the program. Legislator Barr encourages all schools to take part of this program with the benefits of the mental health training for all. Legislator Maher discussed studies regarding SRO's and secret service of the US, in regards to active shooters it is best to invest to put more into counseling and counselors in disaffected youth. Mr. Maher asked if the four retired law enforcement officers have training in child psychology, school counseling, MSW's LSW's, Ms. Tomassi clarified that the retired law enforcement officers are not trainers and have community background and do not have a degree in psychology, but is not sure. Surveys will be sent to the school community to review the program. Legislator Maher requested a manual, a grant proposal and any third party aspects of this program to be able to review. Ms. Tomassi explained that this program is unique and were chosen to administrate. The program was recommended to the department from the DOJ. Chair Alvarado clarified that the grant has been written and has been applied for and can not be written to what Legislator Maher is asking. Legislator Woodson Samuels also requested a list of the participating schools.

Legislator Woodson-Samuels voted Without Prejudice.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Alvarado, Legislator Tubiolo, Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Boykin

Absent: Legislator Williams

WO Prejudice:

2. [ACT-2021-151](#) **IMA-Youth Development Program-Mount Vernon**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the City of Mount Vernon pursuant to which the municipality will provide certain youth development services under its Youth Development Program, for the period commencing retroactively on April 1, 2021 and expiring on March 31, 2022 for a total amount not to exceed ONE HUNDRED FORTY ONE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT (\$141,358.00) DOLLARS.

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

Guest:

Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, Director, WCYB

Legislator Alvarado introduced Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden and Bernie Dean who discussed the funding allocated by the Board of Legislators. This IMA will authorize the County of Westchester acting by and through its Youth Bureau, to enter into an inter-municipal agreement ("IMA") with the City of Mount Vernon acting by and through its Youth Bureau, pursuant to which the Municipality would provide certain youth development services under its Youth Development Program. The IMA would be for a term commencing retroactively on April 1, 2021 and expiring on March 31, 2022, in a total amount not to exceed One Hundred Forty One Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Eight (\$141,358.00) Dollars, payable quarterly, in accordance with an approved budget. Under the IMA, the Municipality would continue to provide unique youth development program initiatives and services under the Youth Development Program, which includes the Safe Haven Program (Safe Haven After School, Summer Program, & Saturday STEAM), the Youth Empowerment program and the Step Up program. The Programs will serve as youth development and juvenile delinquency prevention programs for approximately 215 at-risk County youth, ages 5-21. The Programs address the core elements of positive youth development through academic enrichment; social, recreational, and violence prevention activities, employment readiness training, and job placement for youth participants during after-school and summer hours. The Programs have been funded in the past and have a proven track record for providing successful positive youth development. The Programs will administer internal controls to collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative outcomes to measure the efficacy of program goals and their ability to increase positive youth development. The Programs' outcomes will be tracked and monitored by evaluation of the Programs' data, monthly, quarterly, and annual reports submitted to the Westchester County Youth Bureau, and through site visits by the Westchester County Youth Bureau Program monitors. The Programs anticipate outcomes of positive skills attainment, social competencies and an increased measure of positive youth development across all measurable areas. Legislator Woodson-Samuels thanks Dr. Madden for her service and appreciates the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau.

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

Aye: Committee Chair Alvarado, Legislator Tubiolo, Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Boykin

Absent: Legislator Williams

WO Prejudice:

3. [ACT-2021-160](#) **IMA-Youth Development Programs-Municipalities**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to execute and submit to the State of New York a Resource Allocation Plan which will provide State reimbursement for certain youth services programs and enter into inter-municipal agreements with various municipalities to implement such programs.

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

Guest:

Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, Director, WCYB and Bernie Dean discussed the following Act authorizing the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Youth Bureau to execute and submit to the State of New York a resource allocation plan which would qualify the County to receive certain State reimbursements through the State's Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS"). The Plan will allocate funds for certain youth services programs and related administrative activities, for a program year commencing January 1, 2021 and terminating December 31, 2021. The County would receive under the Plan Nine Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred Sixty and 00/100 (\$929,760.00) Dollars. The County would administer the funds on behalf of the OCFS under the following funding streams: Youth Development Program funds and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act funding. The Act would further authorize the County to enter into inter-municipal agreements ("IMAs") with the indicated municipalities for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for a total aggregate amount not to exceed Two Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Six and 00/100 Dollars (\$293,456.00). Follow up with municipalities for progress on the programs are done on an ongoing basis.

On motion of Committee Chair Alvarado, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Alvarado, Legislator Tubiolo, Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Boykin

Absent: Legislator Williams

WO Prejudice:

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Boykin, the Committee adjourned at 11:55 AM.