

Health

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Jewel Williams Johnson

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

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:15PM.

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Jennifer Pujá, Bryan Doherty, Barry Nechis, Neil Pellone and Peter DiChiara; NYS DOH: Ryan Greenberg and Richard Robinson; NYS ASSEMBLY: Assemblyman Steve Otis (remote), Shelbi McIlroy (remote) and Jean MacAffer (remote); BOL: Lindsey Smith and Dayana Gómez-Holguín

Present: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Parker and Committee Vice-Chair Pierce

Absent: Legislator Imamura and Legislator Smith

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Tuesday, June 6, 2023 1:00pm

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried.

2. Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:00pm

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried.

3. Wednesday, June 21, 2023 1:00pm

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Emergency Medical Services should be considered essential service in New York State

Guests:

Richard Wishnie, Commissioner, and Susan Spear, Deputy Commissioner - Department of Emergency Medical Services

Ryan P. Greenberg, Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems, and Richard E. Robinson, BS, EMT-P, Branch Chief MARO EMS - New York State Department of Health

Shelby McIlroy, Legislative Director - Office of Assemblywoman Amy Paulin

Jennifer Puja, Labor Council Director - Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO

Brian Doherty, LPFFA IAFF L895 (retired) - WPCLB AFL-CIO Vice President

Barry Nechis, retired Fire Captain - City of New Rochelle

Neil Pellone, President - Westchester County of Correction Officers Benevolent Association

Peter DiChiara - Department of Correction Superior Officers

Chair Williams Johnson provided an overview on the topic and invited the guests to introduce themselves. Assemblyman Steve Otis spoke about the proposed legislation that he and Senator Shelley Mayer sponsored for the State of New York last year (Assembly bill A 3392-A and Senate bill S4020-A). Commissioner Wishnie and Deputy Commissioner Spear explained why they are in support of this initiative after sharing a short trailer for a documentary on how Emergency Medical Services (EMS) employees were impacted by the pandemic despite not being considered essential services during that time. Mr. Greenberg provided an overview on New York State's EMS Future Agenda and how they obtained the relevant information that helped them develop this document. Ms. McIlroy provided insight on a recently signed law for community-based paramedicine demonstration programs (Assembly bill A 6683-A and Senate bill S06749-B). She explained that during the past couple of years there have been about 50 community paramedicine programs created to operate with the flexibility authorized under Executive Order No. 4 of 2021, allowing the treatment of non-emergent incidents, which in turn reduced the amount of people in emergency rooms. This law focuses on existing programs allowing those services for the next two years, regardless of what happens with the Executive Order, and also created a stakeholder advisory panel to look at the programs and determine best practices.

The continued discussion included varying experiences from the guests and how nearby counties are also impacted by similar issues, such as lack of funding for example. Among the questions asked there was mention that if EMS becomes an essential service, it would be up to that municipality to determine what that may look like as well as making them responsible for overall costs and services.

After further discussion, Chair Williams Johnson thanked the guests and proceeded to conclude the meeting.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

[2022-286](#)

HON. JAMES NOLAN - McCullen v Coakley US Supreme Court Decision (2013)

Forwarding correspondence from Legislator Nolan to the Committees on Legislation and Health regarding a United States Supreme Court Decision about violations of freedom of speech and locations of freedom of speech zones.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND HEALTH

Chair Williams Johnson added this item as it was noted in a previous meeting for receive and file.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Chair Williams Johnson, the above item was received, filed, and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Parker and Committee Vice-Chair Pierce

Absent: Legislator Imamura and Legislator Smith

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, seconded by Legislator Parker, the Committee adjourned at 3:16pm.