

Families Task Force

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Task Force Co-Chairs: Nancy
Barr & Kathy Halas

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Nancy Barr & Kathy Halas

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:00 AM

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: this website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

-Update on Kinship Housing

-Update on Hate Crime Support Letter

-Updates On Immigration

Guests:

*Karin Anderson Ponzer, Legal Services Director, Neighbors Link
Janet Fry, Deputy Executive Director, Community Resource Center
Bertha Rodriguez, Esq. Managing Attorney, Community Resource Center*

Legislator Barr and Co-Chair Halas began the meeting by providing updates on some of the initiatives FTF has been working on in between meetings. They gave an update on the letter in support of the Hate Crime Modernization Act legislation at the state level.

The meeting continued with a presentation from Karin Anderson Ponzer of Neighbors Link who gave a presentation regarding the responses, support and programs that organizers such as Neighbors Link are doing for the migrants settling into our communities.

In the presentation there was information about the different programs and partners working to protect migrants/asylum seekers and provide wrap around services. The challenges described was the bussing manor by which people are being sent here and the instability of the migrants. Neighbors Link provides a number of services including legal services and applications for

limited scope assistance. They have served over 500 shelter residents. There is a partnership with New York City called the Migrant Relocation Assistance Program which will pay up to 1 year for migrant assistance. Next steps include budget and legislative advocacy and educational services.

Legislator Barr suggested the opportunity to record videos that can help migrants assimilate and understand the landscape of their new environments.

Transportation was expressed as a barrier/challenge for migrants trying to get to and from their shelters and to and from legal appointments.

Co-Chair Halas concluded the meeting by speaking about the updates as it relates to Kinship Housing which included an offline meeting with a development team out of NJ who has done a kinship project recently.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT