



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, October 3, 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 1:11PM.*

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Dr. Brenda Wilson (remote); BOL: Dayana Gómez-Holguín

Present: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Parker

Absent: Legislator Smith

Remote: Committee Vice-Chair Pierce

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 1:00pm

On motion of Legislator Imamura, seconded by Committee Chair Williams Johnson, the above item was approved. The motion carried.

2. Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 2:30pm

On motion of Legislator Imamura, seconded by Committee Chair Williams Johnson, the above item was approved. The motion carried.

3. Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 12:00pm

On motion of Legislator Imamura, seconded by Committee Chair Williams Johnson, the above item was approved. The motion carried.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Antibiotics resistance increasing and how this affects people's health

Guest:

Dr. Brenda Wilson, Professor
Illinois University

Chair Williams Johnson introduced the topic for discussion and invited the guests to introduce themselves. Dr. Wilson began her presentation by explaining the difference between

antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the severity of this public health issue and statistics about people being affected by it. There are a lot of bacteria that already have resistances and when applying antibiotics some of the good bacteria is also affected but the surviving bacteria can continue to grow and spread resistance, which later can cause severe infections. Among the infections that she spoke about were flesh-eating bacteria, Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcal Aureus (MRSA), “superbugs” and other multi-drug resistant bacteria. Dr. Wilson made note that there are very few “last resort” antibiotics available to treat infections. Aside from the health implications of AMR, there is also a costly financial aspect as well to seeking proper treatment. New medications are insufficient to keeping up with the increase of drug resistant bacteria and viruses. Among the challenges to treating patients are misdiagnoses, over-prescriptions, limited drug supply and lack of supervised treatments to name a few. As she concluded her presentation, she mentioned how research gets funded, the consequences of this health issue and who will become most vulnerable in the long run.

Dr. Wilson clarified that antibiotics in livestock is to prevent loss and the spread of diseases, and that microbes in humans differ from that of livestock. The actual issue comes from cross-contamination during processing of meats. Traveling increases resistance as the exposure to diseases in other locations can develop a resistance or a spread. Phage are viruses that attack bacteria and there are some places that conduct phage therapy in hopes of combatting bad microbes, this has proved to be fairly successful but take a lot of work to screen properly.

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

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Chair Williams Johnson, the Committee adjourned at 2:51pm.