

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

Thursday, February 5, 2026

10:00 AM

Committee Room

Joint with FTF

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, New York, 10601, and livestreamed 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 the meeting and its video recording online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/>. This website also provides the links to documents to be discussed at a given meeting.

With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:08AM.

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Dr. Sherlita Amler, Dr. Dial Hewlett, Jr., Danielle Nash, Leslie Liberatore, Dr. Ada Huang, Dr. Rina Agarwal (remote), Kathy Halas, Janet Donat, Nancy Tunis (remote), Carola Bracco (remote), Susan Weisman (remote), Tom Gabriel (remote), Elijah Washington (remote), Cynthia Tejeda-Joseph (remote), Cindy Kanusher (remote), Lisa Field (remote), Rachel Estroff (remote), Leonard Gruenfeld (remote) and Ernest McFadden (remote); BOL: James Silverberg and Ethan Samuel

Present: Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr and Legislator Pierce

Absent: Legislator Imamura and Legislator Ulaj

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Organizational Meeting for the 2026 Legislative Term

- 1. The quorum was set to 3*
- 2. The committee Vice Chair selected is Erika Pierce*
- 3. The committee will be meeting on Wednesdays at 11:00am*

On motion of Legislator Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr and Legislator Pierce

Absent: Legislator Imamura and Legislator Ulaj

A presentation about vaccinations and why awareness matters

Guests: Department of Health
Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner
Dr. Dial Hewlett Jr., Medical Director, Division of Disease Control, Chief of Tuberculosis
Danielle Nash, Registered Nurse
Leslie Liberatore, Nurse Practitioner

The Department of Health guests provided an overview on vaccine initiatives and policies in the County, with a strong emphasis on improving vaccination rates and addressing public hesitancy amid ongoing public health challenges. The discussion included current immunization policies, recent legislative changes, and efforts to reduce disparities in vaccine access. Within the updates provided were the vaccine-related illnesses and guidelines in both Westchester County and the State of New York, along with policies clarifications of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, historical context was provided about the anti-vaccine movement and the examination of current sentiments. Recent measles outbreaks serve as a reminder of the risks faced by unvaccinated children. New York State continues to uphold strict vaccination requirements, which are supported by the Academy of Pediatrics' advocacy for universal childhood immunization.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee adjourned at 11:28am.