

Public Safety

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Terry Clements

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

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

4:15 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.

Colin Smith will be participating remotely from 1132 Main St Suite 1 Peekskill, NY 10566

Margaret Cunzio will be participating remotely from 770 Commerce Street, Thornwood NY 10594

With a quorum present, Chair Clements called the meeting to order at 4:16 PM

Others in Attendance:

GUESTS: Commissioner Rocco Pozzi, Mary Frascello

BOL: Legislator Catherine Parker

Present: Legislator Clements, Legislator Boykin and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Smith

Remote: Legislator Cunzio

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Presentation on Pre-Trial Services

Guests:

Westchester County Department of Probation

Rocco Pozzi, Commissioner

Jimmy Duque, Chief Administrator

The Commissioner explained that Pre-Trial services is something that has always been contracted out by the County. The same company was kept for a long time and then bail reform happened and it was suggested that an RFP be put out. Choice is the current company that does pre-trial services for Westchester County.

Mr. Duque explained that before 2013 pre-trial services was under Department of Corrections and was then moved to Probation. He said the previous company had trouble scaling up and wasn't able to meet the new needs that bail reform presented. The Commissioner explained the history of pre-trial services being solely focused on getting people bailed out of jail. As bail reform came about the needs moved to community based services which is why the decision was made for it to be in probation.

Mr. Duque said that the current vendor, Choice does a great job by providing GPS monitoring, home reporting, in person reporting, case management and adhering to the court requirements. The main focus of the program is making sure the defendant returns back to court. They have a great track record which shows from July 2023-June 2024 they have covered 183 cases and only 32 had warrants issued.

Mr. Duque explained some of the numbers and the grant acquired by the state to be able to increase the contract value thus increase the services being provided.

Legislator Parker asked for clarity around the increase in contract value and amount of services being provided. Mr. Duque explained the staffing levels being increased as well as expansion to other jurisdictions such as Scarsdale.

Legislator Parker asked how was Scarsdale selected? Mr. Duque said these are decisions made based on the referrals being used in pre-trial and because some judges use pre-trial more than others, they are recommendations made to have staff assigned.

Legislator Boykin asked about the grant funding term and the opportunity for renewal. Mr. Duque and the Commissioner said that although there is no renewal language they do not foresee this funding being pulled because of its great need in ensuring bail reforms success.

Legislator Clements asked which cities' judges use the services most? Mr. Duque answered the cities of Yonkers, New Rochelle, Greenburgh and Mount Vernon. He emphasized the learning curve that new services go through in getting people to take advantage of it and says there have been opportunities identified to get it to be used more.

Mr. Duque also discussed the electronic monitoring efforts that Choice has done a great job of managing and getting folks to report to court. The Commissioner mentioned the cost savings associated with electronic monitoring versus housing someone at the jail.

II. OTHER BUSINESS**III. RECEIVE & FILE****ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Boykin, the Committee adjourned at 4:32 PM by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Clements, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Smith