

Human Services, Human Rights & Equity

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft



Committee Chair: Catherine Parker

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

Monday, July 24, 2023

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: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Joint w/ B&A and Health

With a quorum present, Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

Others in Attendance:

BOL: Jill Axelrod, James Silverberg
GUESTS: John Befus (Remote)

Present: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Maher, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

MINUTES APPROVAL

May 15th, 2023 1:00 PM Minutes

May 30th, 2023 2:30 PM Minutes

May 31st, 2023 2:30 PM Minutes

June 21st, 2023 1:00 PM Minutes

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Imamura, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Maher, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[ACT-2023-135](#) IMA-Mandated Preventive Respite Care and Services-Rockland County

Guests:

John Befus, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Social Services

CMSR Befus discussed the item and said this legislation would allow for the continuation of an IMA between the County and Rockland County as it relates to the respite program being run at the sanctuary shelter on the Grasslands Campus. The sanctuary shelter is a 14 bed program that allows temporary shelter for youth to avoid placement in foster care, while families get back on track. The IMA with Rockland County provides an opportunity for Rockland to place youth in open slots since the closing of their shelter in 2013. This agreement provides a cost benefit to the county by offsetting expenses.

Legislator Cunzio asked if the fire departments and police department calls made to the Grasslands Campus is a result of the facility and if so, can we charge Rockland extra for contributing to potential emergency costs? CMSR Befus acknowledged the growing number of calls to Grasslands and said the majority of those calls are for the 149 single bed shelter that is housed on the campus.

Legislator Barr asked why the FIS indicated that the revenue was higher than expenses for the program. CMSR Befus explained that through the contracted \$200 an hour rate of revenue that is paid by Rockland County, the expenses are less which leaves a profit. Legislator Barr then asked what the leftover funds can be used for. CMSR Befus said this allows for less of an overall financial impact on the department and while the funds leftover are not significant, they can be used to be reinvested into additional preventative programs.

Legislator Parker applauded the department for their hard work and gave kudos to the County being in a position and willing to help neighboring counties like Rockland.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Maher, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Cunzio

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Pierce, the Committee adjourned at 12:15 PM by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Parker, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Maher, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson and Committee Vice-Chair Woodson-Samuels