



Legislation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Colin Smith

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

Monday, May 22, 2023

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Appointments committee.

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.

Legislator Catherine Borgia will be participating remotely from Clear View School and Day Treatment Center, 480 Albany Post Road, Briarcliff, NY 10510.

With a quorum present, Legislator Barr called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislators: James Nolan and Erika Pierce; Committee Coordinator Dayana Gomez GUESTS: Law Dept.: Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; Dept. of Health (Remote): Dr. Sherlita Amler, Dr. Dial Hewlett, and Renee Recchia;

Present: Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Gashi, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Maher and Legislator Nolan

Absent: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Boykin and Legislator Johnson

MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, May 15, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

On motion of Legislator Imamura, seconded by Legislator Gashi, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests: Law Dept.: Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; Dept. of Health: Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner

1. [2023-187](#) **PH-Establishing a Subcommittee of the African American Advisory Board**

Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz explained that this is a five member sub-committee appointed by the County Executive and with the Commissioners of the Departments of Health, Social Services and Planning (or their designees) as ex-officio members. Their task is to assess the asthma risks for minority residents in the county and identify barriers for quality asthma treatments, develop intervention strategies, and launch a countywide asthma awareness campaign to educate

County residents on how to manage this disease better. The sub-committee will then deliver an annual report with trends and data to the County Executive and the Board of Legislators as of September 1, 2025.

Commissioner Amler and Deputy Commissioner Recchia explained that there are two sources of data they receive to assess asthma, one via a telephone survey and the other based on emergency room visits that looks at adults and children. When narrowing down by zip codes for people between the ages of 0 to 18, from 2018 to 2020 Westchester County's rate was at 65.4 and New York State's rate was 48.5 (excluding New York City). From surveys and studies like these, it was determined that minorities were predominantly asthmatic. As a way to help circumvent this issue, the Department of Health determined that they would find it beneficial to have a sub-committee for the African American Advisory Board. Dr. Amler explained that asthma can derive from several sources, such as air quality, as it is a multi-factorial condition. The committee report lists Yonkers, Peekskill and Mt. Vernon as the areas most affected by serious asthma, so legislators asked about having members on the subcommittee representing all of those geographic areas and having members representing the Hispanic community as well as the African American community.

Some of the committee members said that the Board of Legislators should have input in appointing the members of this subcommittee. Ms. Dolgin-Kmetz added that although the Board does not appoint the sub-committee members, the Board does have a say in whose appointment gets confirmed for the African American Advisory Board in general. Other suggestions made by the committee members included ensuring that there is a pulmonologist on the subcommittee, updating the committee report's first line, and requiring geographical representation for environmental justice communities. The committee report references a recent Westchester County Dept. of Health Community Health Assessment citing 10% of adults within the county reporting asthma, highest among the county's Black and Hispanic residents. This should be checked with our Health Dept because when asked about it they had a different explanation.

This RESOLUTION - Public Hearing was continued

2. [2023-188](#) **LOCAL LAW-Establishing a Subcommittee of the African American Advisory Board**

This LOCAL LAW - Amendment to Local Law was continued

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Gashi, seconded by Legislator Imamura, the Committee adjourned at 2:05 p.m.