

Health

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Jewel Williams-Johnson

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

Monday, April 18, 2022

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with the Committee on Budget and Appropriations and the Committee on Seniors and Youth

This meeting will be held pursuant to Chapter 56 of the New York State Laws of 2022, which authorize any public body to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public-in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM.

Others in Attendance: DCMH: Joe Glazer (remote), Desh Edwards (remote) and Thomas Poovappalli (remote); WCC: Brian Murphy (remote), Robert Cirillo (remote), Scott Sullivan (remote) and Stewart Glass (remote); SENIOR PROGRAMS: Sandra Brown (remote); YOUTH BUREAU: Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden (remote); BOL: Legislator Woodson-Samuels, Legislator David Tubiolo (remote), Legislator James Nolan (remote), Legislator Margaret Cunzio (remote), Legislator Damon Maher (remote), Legislator Jose Alvarado (remote), Legislator Catherine Parker (remote), Anand Singh and Dayana Gómez

Present: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Gashi and Legislator Smith

Remote: Committee Vice-Chair Pierce and Legislator Shimsky

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2022-32](#) ACT-WCHCC-Community Mental Health Services

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation for a term from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026, pursuant to which it will provide community mental health services, including clinic treatment and court ordered assertive community treatment services to adults with serious mental illness.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND HEALTH

Guests:

Department of Community Mental Health - Joe Glazer, Deputy Commissioner, Desh Edwards, Program Director

Legislator Gashi invited the guests to introduce themselves and begin the discussion on the item. Deputy Commissioner Glazer shared that the department has various programs that get funded from different sources such as from State departments and the federal government. This program is administered through the unified services contract and it focuses on adult mental health for court-ordered individuals to receive out-patient services. He clarified that the title should specify that this is court ordered. Ms. Edwards added that Westchester Medical's act team is a multi-disciplinary team of 7-10 members: a psychiatrist, a nurse practitioner or registered nurse, a substance abuse specialist, a residential specialist, a vocational specialist, a housing specialist and a peer. They look for people who have tried different avenues to seek help, to no avail. This act team will meet them wherever they are and work with them on reaching the goals that they set for themselves, creating a therapeutic model that helps them in the long run.

Legislator Barr asked how many people are enrolled in the program and what is their success rate. Ms. Edwards responded that it is 68 people on a team at a time and they are supposed to be seen 6 times per month. She added that they do not have a specific rate of success to reference but they have seen a decrease in Medicaid usage for these services once they are enrolled in this program.

Legislator Maher advised that a representative from the Westchester Medical Centers should be invited to this discussion as he has several questions on the topic to ask them specifically. He suggested that there is no vote for this item until they are present. Ms. Edwards responded with confirmation that this is an effective team as she has seen it working well for individuals. She added that the Medical Center is an asset in this program and this act team stays staffed.

Chair Williams Johnson added that the Health Committee will be inviting the Medical Center to a future meeting to discuss some of the issues mentioned today. She asked how the allotted amount funding compare to what they have received in the past and who determines the ratio per client for care. Mr. Glazer responded that the act team was created in State law as well as what their workload looks like as well.

Mr. Poovappalli added that this contract is the renewal of the contract with the Medical Center, which expired in December 31, 2020. The funding for the program comes from the State and therefore there is no impact to the County's budgets. The amount comes out of the deficit funding from the State. The program is operated through Medicaid, Medicare and third party insurances, any deficit that comes from the program is provided to from State aid.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Smith, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Gashi, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Smith

2. [ACT-2022-38](#) ACT-WCHCC-Add'I COVID-19 Testing Srvcs. to WCC

AN ACT amending Act No. 2021-168, which authorized the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation, d/b/a Westchester

Medical Center, for a term commencing on October 7, 2021 and expiring on October 6, 2022, for Covid-19 nasopharyngeal testing services, in order to authorize additional saliva and other COVID-19 related testing services, extend the term of the Agreement through May 12, 2023 and authorize Quadrant Biosciences as an approved subcontractor for the provision of Clarifi Covid-19 Saliva tests.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND HEALTH

Guests:

Westchester Community College - Brian Murphy, Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services and CFO, Robert Cirillo, Director of Physical Plant, Campus Services & Security, Scott Sullivan, Director of Security, Stewart Glass, Director of Contracting and Procurement
Legislator Gashi invited the guests to introduce themselves and begin the discussion on the item. Mr. Murphy stated that this act is meant to amend a current agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation that expires on October 6, 2022. This amendment will update the expiration date to May 12, 2023, adding specific testing technology and acknowledging that there may be future updated testing technology, in addition to hiring a sub-contractor as well.

Legislator Gashi asked if they have other dealings with the sub-contractor, to which Mr. Glass responded that there are not any others and that this is a laboratory.

Chair Williams Johnson asked for an overview of how this works. Mr. Sullivan responded with their testing protocols on campus, in addition to their testing technology used. He added the type of testing at the Westchester Medical Center, stated that employees are 100% back to working on campus and their projections for the upcoming semesters. Chair Williams Johnson also asked how many students and faculty they have on campus. Mr. Sullivan responded that there are about 4,000 students on campus and testing about 120 per week, he does not have an exact number for employees.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Smith, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Gashi, Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Smith

3. [ACT-2022-40](#) **IMA(Amend)-Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program-Yonkers**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to amend an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Yonkers for a Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program.

Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, SENIORS & YOUTH AND HEALTH

Guests:

Westchester County Youth Bureau - Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, Executive Director
Legislator Gashi invited the guest to introduce themselves and begin the discussion on the item. Dr. Harris-Madden shared that on October of 2021 this item was passed by the Board of Legislators and today they would like to amend to allow the City of Yonkers to be afforded additional funding of \$30,334 added to total to amount \$60,668. They want to ensure that all dollars are spent and that its purpose is fulfilled. They are executing this program through the One Love Program which teaches the youth on healthy relationships and health y relationship

building. They also use the Ready Curriculum which allows for soft skills building and preparation for employment. This allows Yonkers to afford more access for the young people who will benefit from this.

Chair Williams Johnson asked why the Nepperhan Community Center refused the funds and Dr. Harris-Madden responded that despite her not being able to speak for them, there seems to be a capacity challenge there and after much discussion they agreed to forego the funds so that the youth can still benefit. Legislator Alvarado added that there was no animosity behind this and the Nepperhan Community Center continues to serve the youth.

Legislators shared sentiments approval on this item and Dr. Harris-Madden's efforts with the success of her work in the Youth Bureau.

On motion of Legislator Smith, seconded by Legislator Gashi, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Gashi,
Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Smith

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Gashi, the Committee adjourned at 11:41am.