

Families Task Force

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft



Task Force Co-Chairs:
Nancy Barr & Kathy Halas

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
WestchesterLegislatorsNY.gov

Thursday, July 9, 2026

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, 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.

Committee Co-Chair Legislator Nancy Barr called the meeting to order.

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

'Delay the Scroll': A Youth-Led Program Encouraging Younger Children to Postpone Smart Phone and Social Media Use

Guests: Rye High Students Present

Childcare Wage Enhancement Initiative:

Guests: The New York Community Trust

Laura Rossi, Vice President, Westchester Office, The New York Community Trust

Nupur Chaudhury Goldson - Program Director, Westchester Office, The New York Community Trust

Lauren Perkins, Program Director, Westchester Office, The New York Community Trust

Dawn Meyerski, Executive Director, Mount Kisco Child Care Center

The meeting began with introductions of individuals from the task force who introduced themselves and their organizations. The Families Task Force meeting focused on the impact of technology on youth and the challenges of childcare accessibility, emphasizing the need for collaboration and innovative solutions.

After introductions, 'Delay the Scroll': A Youth-Led Program started by Rye High School Students was presented. The presentation spoke to the effects of cell phones and social

media on youth, with students sharing personal experiences to encourage younger peers to delay phone ownership. Presenters highlighted the negative impact of screens on sleep, focus, and mental health, and stressed the importance of alternatives to phone use that promote healthier engagement in real-life activities. The discussion also noted the ongoing challenge of engaging young men in conversations about social media and mental health, while recognizing that parents' own screen habits influence children's behavior and attitudes toward technology. Participants also observed that social media affects youth differently, with girls often more affected than boys, who are more influenced by video games. Safety concerns continue to drive many parents to prioritize constant communication through phones, which complicates efforts to limit device use.

The Westchester Office of The New York Community Trust addressed the critical importance of childcare quality and affordability. Childcare was described as essential to child development and workforce reliability, especially for women, and affordable childcare was noted as a key factor in workforce participation and overall business performance. Small daycare providers continue to face financial pressure because of strict regulations and low margins, while innovative programs in Westchester are working to improve childcare accessibility and support local families.

The group emphasized that collaboration among stakeholders is necessary to address the complex challenges within the childcare system, including the need for better communication and coordination between state agencies and school districts to ensure effective funding. Participants also raised concerns that community-based childcare is at risk as more families move toward school-based programs that may not always reflect developmentally appropriate practices. The sustainability of the early childhood workforce was identified as critical to maintaining stable classrooms and supporting families, and the meeting concluded with recognition that investments in childcare benefit children, families, employers, and the broader economy.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned