

# Health

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: Jewel Williams-Johnson

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

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Tuesday, January 10, 2023

1:00 PM

Committee Room

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### 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.

*With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:07PM.*

*Others in Attendance: HEALTH: Commissioner Sherlita Amler; LABS & RESEARCH: Dr. Aleksander Milovanovic; SOCIAL SERVICES: Derrick Hinds (remote) and Jill Seelig (remote); GUESTS: Dr. Jennifer Canter (remote), Dr. Sumathi Kasinathan (remote) and Suma Joshua (remote), Katherine Mancini (remote); BOL: Legislator James Nolan (remote), Melanie Montalto (remote) and Dayana Gómez*

**Present:** Committee Chair Williams Johnson, Legislator Barr, Legislator Gashi and  
Committee Vice-Chair Pierce

**Absent:** Legislator Smith

### MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Tuesday, November 1, 2022 11:00am

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried.

### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Infant suffocation education

**Guests:****Dr. Jennifer Canter, MD, MPH, FAAP, CLCP, CRC**

Professor of Pediatrics at the New York Medical College

Chief, Section of Child Abuse Pediatrics at The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital/WMC Health

Director, Child Abuse Pediatrics at the Westchester Institute for Human Development

**Dr. Aleksander Milovanovic**

Department of Labs & Research

**Michael Orth, Commissioner**

Department of Community Mental Health

**Derrick Hinds, Deputy Commissioner, and Jill Seelig, Director of Child Welfare**

Department of Social Services

**Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner**

Department of Health

**Angel Gray, Program and Policy Manager**

Westchester Children's Association

**Dr. Sumathi Kasinathan, Director of Pediatrics, and Suma Joshua, PA, Yonkers Site Director**

Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, Inc.

**Kathleen Halas, Executive Director, and Katherine Mancini, Director of Health Care Consultant Services**

Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc.

*Chair Williams Johnson invited all guests to introduce themselves and for Dr. Milovanovic to share why this topic came up during the previous budget season. After Dr. Amler's introduction, Dr. Canter began her presentation on the topic. She began by explaining safe sleeping practices for babies, initiatives throughout Westchester and some of the reasons why parents make sleeping accommodation mistakes with their children. Dr. Canter's presentation also included an explanation on the changes in terminology, available educational programs in the County and recommendations on how this mishap can be avoided for parents. Dr. Amler added that SIDS still exists in response to Legislator Barr's questions and Dr. Canter provided more details as to how this terminology comes into the fold when determining why the child has died. Dr. Milovanovic's presentation included proper safety practices and what to avoid when placing a baby in their sleeping area. Deputy Commissioner Hinds spoke about the programs available to the public that are provided by the Department of Social Services as well as their community partners. Ms. Seelig detailed how the caseworkers onboard in the department to receive trainings regarding the Safe Sleep program and their pack-n-play distribution program.*

*Chair Williams Johnson thanked the guests and proceeded to conclude the meeting.*

**II. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **III. RECEIVE & FILE**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, the Committee adjourned at 3:01pm.