



# Families Task Force

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Task Force Co-Chairs:  
Catherine Borgia & Kathy Halas

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.  
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White Plains, NY 10601  
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**Friday, May 21, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

**Committee Room**

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### CALL TO ORDER

*Chair Borgia called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.*

*Pursuant to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.1, "Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency," which temporarily suspends portions of the New York State Open Meetings Law.*

*A section of the order, "Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or other similar services," provides for the suspension of "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing 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."*

*Others in attendance:*

*Y. Valencia, Kathy Halas*

*The following members attended remotely:*

*Legislator Barr, Legislator Johnson, Legislator Maher, Legislator Walter, Legislator Shimsky, N. Tunic, S. Sheppard, M. Samuels, J. Fisher, Director Evan Latainer, C. Bracco, E. Hoscoy, J. Prywes, L. Vieltel, M. Spenser, M. James, S. Borsody, K. Anderson Ponzer, Carolyn Flunkinger, T. Gabriel, C. Kanusher, S. Elliot  
S. Weisman,*

### MINUTES APPROVAL

#### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

##### 1. Covid-19 Vaccine

*Legislator Borgia opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She mentioned that 52% of Westchester County residents are fully vaccinated. Ms. Bracco introduced the covid vaccine discussion and mentioned that the vaccine was difficult to obtain for many black, brown, Asians and immigrants. Her office has done a tremendous amount of outreach for all to be vaccinated, making sure no one had trouble accessing the vaccine. Partnerships between employers to sign up employees for vaccinations was critical. Neighbors Link has set up a call center to call out to many residents and have successfully made 1600 appointments and have reaches out to over 5000 individuals. She suggests improving our communication and marketing efforts to get the word out about the vaccines. She recalls in the same way as was done to get out the vote. Legislator Borgia asked that some residents do not realize that non US identification is accepted to vaccinate. Many residents were turned away when they didn't have proper ID. Medical facilities are in agreement to vaccinate all. Similar communication as*

the census enrollment is key to get to all. Communication is important to let everyone be informed. Legislator Barr informed the task force of the hesitancy about the vaccine in Spanish speaking people., many factors bring fear to this community. Having people who speak the same language is a plus to talk to the immigrant community and address the hesitancy issues. Ms. Hoscoy advised the task force on various barriers, they partnered with the city of Yonkers and set up mobile vaccine clinics in schools She explained that digital equity has been a difficult task to get all resident to register. There is still a hesitancy, the center set up a forum to address the issues; the three issues that came up in questions were the following:

- 1). The Johnson and Johnson vaccine was not a vaccine
- 2). Identification
- 3). Paperwork due to literacy concerns

To address these issues Catholic Charities held a covid clinic on site, there were 120 available spots, residents only need their first and last name and phone number to sign up. The Phizer vaccine was available for 12 years and older. A total of 168 individuals lined up for assistance, paperwork was filled out by staff. Residents appreciated the assistance. Mr. Frank Williams discussed the concern over how to get the vaccine to residents that are homebound.

Greenburg has established Covid Angels, White Plains has duplicated this program and have successfully scheduled 1000 appointments to administer the vaccine in their homes. Mr. Latianer, Director of the Office for People with Disabilities in which the department oversees the Paratransit program. With guidance from the County Executive, the program has been opened to all residents to be able to be driven to vaccine sites. This has shown success in which 10 to 15 trips per day are being scheduled. You may email Mr. Latianer to schedule an appointment by emailing him at [ehl2@wetschestergov.com](mailto:ehl2@wetschestergov.com) or calling the reservation line at (914)995-7222.

## 2. Results of the Families Task Force Survey

Chair Halas discussed the results of the FTF Issues Survey, the top three rating in order where Corona Virus, Affordable Housing and Mental Health.

Below are the combined rating:

Corona Virus  
Hunger  
Affordable Housing  
Racial Equity  
Mental Health

Other Issues listed:

Trauma Informed Care/Organizations  
Immigration  
Workforce and Employment  
Police Reform  
Transportation

Other Write In Issues:

Inclusion of people with disabilities (in decision making process for services)  
Domestic Violence and the ripple effect it has  
Expanding Youth Justice: Raise the Age beyond 18  
Marijuana legislation and the implication for individuals previously convicted of a related

charge

*Affordable and equitable child care*

*Digital access and digital literacy*

## **II. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **III. RECEIVE & FILE**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Task Force adjourned at 11:25 AM.

DRAFT