

# 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, September 20, 2022

1:00 PM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

*Please note: This meeting will be held in person at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601 in the McPoland Conference Room # 824 and also remotely via WebEx. Legislators may participate in person or via video conferencing through WebEx. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting in person at any of its locations or view it online at the Westchester Legislators website:*

*<<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>> this website also has links to the Agenda Packets containing documents to be discussed at the meeting.*

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<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>*

*With a quorum present, Chair Williams Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:12 PM.*

*Others in Attendance: GUEST: Noura Hajjaj (remote); BOL: Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (remote) and Dayana Gómez*

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

**Absent:** Legislator Gashi, Legislator Shimsky and Legislator Smith

### MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Tuesday, June 21, 2022 1:00pm
2. Wednesday, September 7, 2022 10:00am
3. Monday, September 12, 2022 9:30am
4. Tuesday, September 13, 2022 1:00pm

### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The impact of political dividedness on family relationships & friendships and mechanisms of conflict

**Guests:**

Noura Hajjaj, Lecturer of Communications at SUNY New Paltz,  
Chair of the Peace and Conflict Communication Division at the National Communication Association & Past President of the New York State Communication Association

*Ms. Hajjaj shared a presentation on the inequalities in health care during the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on Asian-Americans. Within her presentation she provided statistical information as well as the effects of the pandemic on mental health, the impacts of billing in hospitals and the issues surrounding policymakers within the health care system. Additionally, Ms. Hajjaj provided information on hate crimes and the impact that this has on individuals, particularly on those of Asian descent due to COVID-19 misinformation. In her closing remarks, Ms. Hajjaj noted that white privilege has played a role in certain incidents and how it is evidenced within the health care system. The committee members engaged in dialogue on this topic and shared potential steps towards remedying these issues.*

*Presentation available upon request.*

**II. OTHER BUSINESS****III. RECEIVE & FILE****ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, the Committee adjourned at 1:54pm.