

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

Monday, September 12, 2022

9:30 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with the Committees on Budget & Appropriations and Human Services, Human Rights and Equity

This meeting will be held pursuant to Chapter 1 of the New York State Laws of 2022 and Executive Order 11, as extended, 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 10:44 AM.

GUESTS: BUDGET DEPT.: Larry Soule (remote); OFFICE FOR WOMEN: Robi Schlaff (remote); BOL: Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Legislator James Nolan, Legislator Damon Maher, Legislator Catherine Parker (remote), Legislator Margaret Cunzio (remote), Legislator David Tubiolo, Marcello Figueroa, Jill Axelrod, Shatika Parker, Elizabeth LoBello, Anand Singh and Dayana Gómez

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

Remote: Legislator Borgia and Legislator Shimsky

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2022-111](#) ACT-WCHCC-SAAVE Program-Bilingual Services

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation for the term commencing January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 pursuant to which the WCHCC shall provide free culturally-competent bilingual services for victims of sexual assault residing in Westchester County.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, HUMAN SERVICES, HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUITY AND HEALTH

Guest:
Robi Schlaff, Director
Office for Women

Ms. Schlaff explained that this item relates to a rape crisis and sexual assault exam program ran at the Westchester Medical Center. SAAVE (Sexual Assault Abuse and Victims Empowerment program) is a \$100,000 program that offers multilingual services to victims where the advocates assist those needing help with sexual assault, domestic violence, rape crisis hotline, etc. They have approximately 40 volunteers and hope to hire people as opposed to limiting only to volunteers. Ms. Schlaff also shared that due to the law enforcement trainings they have received more phone calls for those seeking services. They connect the victims with advocates as soon as possible and after they leave the medical center, they continue with the advocates and resources necessary to assist them with their cases.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. **[ACT-2022-112](#) ACT-WCHCC-FACT Program-Forensic Medical Care**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation for a term commencing January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 pursuant to which the WCHCC shall operate its Forensic Acute Care Team (FACT) Program and provide forensic medical care for children/adolescents and adults.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, HUMAN SERVICES, HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUITY AND HEALTH

Guests:

Robi Schlaff, Director
Office for Women

Larry Soule, Director
Budget Department

The FACT program (Forensic Acute Care Team) began in 2014 due to not having good forensic evidence tracking abilities. They found that the rate of completion of rape kits were not appropriate and created more delays than necessary. They also did a lot of outreach to different departments to ensure that sexual assaults were handled by the Medical Center in efforts to provide as much efficient services and resources as possible. This program runs 24/7 and they answer high risk calls, sexual assaults, as well as for domestic violence related cases. They have also trained 37 police departments and when victims call for assistance they are connected with the Medical Center. They collaborate with law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, domestic violence agencies, and other entities.

On motion of Committee Vice-Chair Pierce, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Smith, seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee adjourned at 11:04am.