



Committee on Social Services

~MINUTES~

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

10:00 AM

Committee Chair: Christopher Johnson

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Christopher Johnson	Chair	Present	
Nancy Barr	D6 Legislator	Present	
Catherine Borgia	D9 Legislator	Absent	
Kitley Covill	D2 Legislator	Present	
MaryJane Shimsky	D12 Legislator (Majority Leader)	Present	
David J. Tubiolo	D14 Legislator (Minority Whip)	Absent	
Alfreda Williams	D8 Legislator (Vice Chair)	Absent	
Benjamin Boykin	D5 Legislator (Chairman)	Present	

Others In Attendance: CEO: Ron Tocci BOL: Dayana Gómez and Mary Jackson

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion on outreach and benefits for Veterans

Invited Guest:

Ron Tocci, Director of Veterans Service Agency

Mr. Tocci spoke about some of the benefits available to veterans in the County. In referencing a change of office from White Plains to New Rochelle, he mentioned that he has a list of disabled veteran contractors/vendors that may be available for future jobs as the one hired for this move. He mentioned that outreach is the biggest hurdle and that although the Veterans Service Agency facilitates an array of services that many people still do not know about this office. Mr. Tocci also clarified that veterans services are not just available to veterans but also to those actively serving and their families as well. He is working on obtaining a \$1 million grant to teach clinicians how to care for veterans and the Patriot Housing Program which places veterans in permanent homes. Additionally, if someone is not eligible for veterans services then DSS takes over in hopes to find other assistance for the applicant.

Legislator Shimsky asked how much can veterans get retroactively, to which Mr. Tocci explained that it depends on the reason and when the injury happened.

Mr. Tocci also mentioned that he is working on a center for women veterans to get services locally and that a Resolution from the Board would be great support.

Legislators' request for information and/or actions by Mr. Tocci:

1. List of disabled veteran contractors
2. Letter to tax assessors and send the Committee a copy
3. Veterans Services Agency brochures and e-news information for distribution
4. Dates and locations for grammar school visits
5. Speak with DSS Commissioner Kevin McGuire about sending the Medicaid letter again

To view this meeting in its entirety, please visit:

https://westchestercountyny.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=177

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Shimsky seconded by Legislator Barr the Committee adjourned at 4-0.