

Suffolk County Legislature  
Teen Pregnancy Advisory Board  
Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer (D-Huntington)

**2020 Annual Report**

**Members as of December 2020:**

Cynthia Amato, Chairperson

Secretary – Vacant (joint effort of the board)

**Current Members at Year End:**

- A. ***Beverly Jefferson*** - A representative from the County Legislature, to be appointed by the Presiding Officer;
- B. ***Cynthia Amato***– A representative from the County Executive’s office, to be appointed by the County Executive;
- C. ***Claudia Delgado***– A Suffolk County law enforcement officer, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
- D. ***Colleen Merlo***– A representative of an organization dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
- E. ***Robyn Berger – Gaston*** - A representative of a nonprofit drug and alcohol prevention and education agency, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
- F. ***Larry Philips*** – A school professional, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
- G. ***Christopher Weiner*** – The Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, or his/her designee;
- H. ***Judith Montauban*** – A child welfare advocate, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
- I. ***Reverend Pearson/Grace Ioannidis*** – The Director of the Suffolk County Youth Bureau, or his/her designee;
- J. ***Ellen Higgins***– The Commissioner of the Department of Health Services, or his/her designee.
- K. ***Maria McCue*** – Representative of a nonprofit teen sexuality and pregnancy education agency, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
- L. ***Allison Eliscu*** - A medical professional to be appointed by the County Legislature

**Staff Support:**

**May 2014 – Present**

Elizabeth Alexander, Legislative Aide

Office of Legislator William R. Spencer, 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**2020 Overview:**

- **Full Board Meetings:**
  - March 20, 2020
  - June 19, 2020

- July 17, 2020
- September 25, 2020
- October 16, 2020
- November 20, 2020
- **Summit Committee Meetings:**
  - December 16, 2020

**Guest Speakers/Research:** N/A

**Events and Outreach:**

- ***Summit for Professionals/Students***– postponed until further notice due to COVID. Board discussed the planning of a virtual conference.
- ***Website/Provide Resources*** – the Board initiated the creation of a website page to be included on the County website
  - Research the new landscape and potential effects of COVID on teen pregnancy, STDs, etc.
  - Provide messaging to adolescents
    - Weekly videos
  - Create Memo for professionals on available resources

**Membership:**

All membership positions were filled as referenced above.

Since 2014, the Secretary position on the board has been vacant. The board has shared responsibilities to complete all meeting agendas and minutes. Board Chairperson notified and reminded board members of meeting dates and times, as well as obligations for board membership attendance.

**Goals for 2021:**

- Guest Speakers: TBD
- Planning of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit - Virtually
- Research and promote existing resources including APPs for health and wellness.
- Prevention and Empowerment with Youth Organizations
- Review County Legislation for support
- Dissemination of resources on the County website
- Look into updated Statistics
- Collaborate with State Partners on issues like Comprehensive Sex Education, etc.

**Recommendations:**

- Uniform policy and regulation around support services for pregnant and/or parenting teens, and prevention
- Social Media Campaign in the County on the issue of teen pregnancy and promotion of resources.
- Provide literature and resources to SCPD, medical providers, clergy, parents/grandparents, etc. to promote education and empowerment.
- Increase funding for support services, prevention education and empowerment for pregnant and/or parenting adolescents and at-risk youth.
- County support for Comprehensive Sex Education
- Increased Public Health Equity and Cultural Competency. County should approach and help with providing resources and education.

Respectfully Submitted, Cynthia Amato, Chairperson, and the Suffolk County Teen Pregnancy Advisory Board