POLICY COMMITTEE

Public Hearing: Protecting Vulnerable Youth - Accountability in Emergency Placement Decisions

The purpose of this hearing is to examine how the Department of Human Services (DHS) plans, coordinates, and monitors the relocation of vulnerable children before, during, and after an emergency facility closure.

November 9, 2026 | 9:00 a.m.

Hearing Overview

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Welcome**
- **Opening Remarks**
  - Chairman David H. Rowe
- **Testimony from Invited Experts**
- **Member Discussion with Testifiers**
- **Closing Comments & Adjournment**

Testifiers

- **Bilal Hasan**, Chief of Operations, L.Y.F.E. Shelter
- **Fred Clarke**, President and CEO, Clark Resources
- **Honorable Royce L. Morris**, Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas
- **Deidre Walker**, Counselor and former on-site Licensed Therapist for L.Y.F.E.
- **Youth Witness**
- **James Ellison**, CEO, General Counsel and Compliance Officer, L.Y.F.E. Shelter

Livestream
www.policycommittee.com

About the Testifiers:

Bilal Hasan

Bilal Hasan serves as Chief of Operations for L.Y.F.E. Shelter (Leading Youth for Excellence) in Steelton, Pennsylvania. As a co-owner of the organization, he plays an important role in overseeing operations and advancing its mission of providing care and support to vulnerable youth.



Fred Clarke

Fred Clarke serves as President and CEO of Clark Resources, a Harrisburg-based consulting firm specializing in government relations, business development, diversity initiatives and professional services. He brings extensive experience in government affairs, community leadership and economic development.



Royce L. Morris

The Honorable **Royce L. Morris** is a Judge on the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas, where he was elected in 2018. He began his legal career with the Dauphin County Public Defender's Office, later becoming a partner at Goldberg Katzman. With more than 25 years of legal experience, Judge Morris has served in various leadership roles within Pennsylvania's legal community.

Deidre Walker

Deidre Walker is a counselor and former on-site licensed therapist for L.Y.F.E., where she provided mental health support and therapeutic services to individuals facing personal and emotional challenges. Through her work, she has helped individuals develop healthy coping strategies, build resilience, and improve their overall well-being.

James Ellison

James Ellison is an attorney and the owner of BCL Partners, LLC, which operated Leading Youth for Excellence (LYFE)—formerly known as the Schaffner Youth Center—in Swatara Township / Steelton, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. He is also a former solicitor for the Harrisburg School District.