



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. Resources & Services

September 17th, 2024

Audrey Dejesus, Committee Chairperson

Attendance: *Audrey Dejesus*

DRAFT

Introduction and Meeting Start

- Committee Chair Audrey Dejesus initiates the meeting, calling it to order and introducing the LGBTQIA committee.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan reminds everyone about the live broadcast and requests silence or vibrate on electronic devices.
- Committee Chair Audrey Dejesus welcomes Presenter Connie Pacheco, who is expected to give a presentation on Recoveries R'US.
- Ms. Connie Pacheco begins her presentation, providing a brief overview of the program.

Overview of Recoveries Program

- Ms. Connie Pacheco explains that Recoveries was founded in 2013 and provides vocational training for substance abuse counselors.
- The program is located in East Harlem but serves all five boroughs, particularly the Bronx.
- Recoveries R'US offers day and evening classes with ongoing registration, allowing students to start immediately.
- The program is approved by Access VR, a state-funded agency for individuals with disabilities, including mental health and substance abuse.

Services and Credentials Offered

- Recoveries R'US offers classes required for obtaining and renewing credentials such as CASAC, Serpa, and CARC.
- The program includes a cap and gown graduation, with the next one scheduled for October 17.
- Recoveries R'US has a lifelong alumni program where graduates meet monthly to network and discuss topics.
- The program now offers Spanish classes due to the need for Spanish-speaking counselors.

Specialty Courses and Employment Support

- Recoveries R'US guarantees internships and supports students until they are hired.
- The program has connections that help students secure employment.
- The CASAC credential course takes three months in the daytime and eight months in the evening.
- The Serpa foundational course is nine days, and the full peer-to-peer training from Access VR is 30 days.

Scholarships and Classroom Capacity

- Recoveries R'US has eight scholarships for Serpa training, available only to Bronx residents.
- The program has three classrooms with capacities of 20, 16, and 12 students.
- Committee Chair Audrey Dejesus and Ms. Connie Pacheco discuss the need for more space in the Bronx for expansion.
- Recoveries R'US is a certified LGBT enterprise, catering to the underserved LGBTQ community.

Advocacy and Future Vision

- District Manager Anthony Jordan inquires about the base income for individuals entering the field and advocacy for better wages.
- Ms. Connie Pacheco provides salary estimates for different credentials, noting that recovery coaches often work in private organizations.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of advocating for better wages to support individuals in recovery.
- Ms. Connie Pacheco shares the vision for Recoveries R'US to become the number one community-based school for addiction and recovery.

Workforce and Community Impact

- Ms. Connie Pacheco describes the workforce as her "kids" and emphasizes the importance of making students feel safe and validated.
- The program has placed graduates in various organizations across Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens.
- Committee Chair Audrey Dejesus and District Manager Anthony Jordan discuss the importance of making recommendations for district needs assessments.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn, and Committee Chair Audrey Dejesus thanks everyone for their participation.

Action Items

Email recommendations for district needs assessment to BX01@cb.nyc.gov.

Bring LGBTQ organization guidebooks to community board meetings.

Schedule Recoveries of Us liaison to attend community board meeting on August 26th.