



Chairman Brandon Ganaishlal - District Manager William Rivera

Youth & Education Committee Meeting Summary

March 10, 2022

Board Members Present: Monique Farrington, Abunoman Rahman, Linda Soto, Ram Halder Lena Johnson, Wajied Hakim, Miriam Sanchez, Lenora Easter, Md Alauddin, Nellie Santiago, Daniel Porro

I. Introduction

- A. Committee Description:** The youth & education committee represents the community's interests with regards to education and programs that target the youth and acts as a liaison between community members and the NYC Department of Education including Parent Advocates, PTA's, Educators and Principals, School Safety, the Administration for Children Services, the District Attorney's Office, NYC department of Youth & Development and local organizations and nonprofits.

II. Speakers

A. Robert Spencer, Bronx DA - CONCEPT Program

The CONCEPT program acronym stands for "Creating Opportunities Necessary to Create Empowered Positive Teens." CONCEPT is a comprehensive, middle school life skills course that equips children with the tools to form constructive relationships with peers and authority figures, attain a practical sense of criminality, and build problem-solving skills. The goal is to help youth avoid harmful situations. The program only requires a smart board and a few activities in order to run the 9 sessions at a site. The program is free, and speaker Robert Spencer can be contacted to set up session. The Bronx DA also offers single sessions and parent workshops as well so that parents are aware what children are experiencing in social groups and what they are exposed to.

B. Ana Hernandez, Area Manager of New York Programs - Eckerd Connects Workforce Development

This program offers job placement assistance, paid internships, financial literacy education, bank account assistance, educational assistance, workshops, professional development, customer service certification and supporting services such as free metro cards, legal assistance, clothing and food, on site mental health specialist, and more. A+ certification and operation skills training is also offered. The requirements to join are that you must be between the ages of 16-24, a resident of New York, out of school, and unemployed. A high school diploma is not required. For youth with HS diploma looking for more, EKG and Phlebotomy certification is offered. This program will be collaborating in a resource fair on April 5th with the Sotomayor Center from 9am-2:30pm. anhernandez@eckerd.org

C. Bruce Simpson, Team Leader - Next STEPS Castle Hill

Speaker had to leave on a family emergency and will present at a future committee meeting.

D. Veronica Millender - Community Literacy Fair

Suggestion for Literacy Fair for Spring and Summer 2022. Suggestions for participants include: a) Latanya Devaughn, Founder of BronxBoundBooks. "The Bookstore That Comes To You! We believe every neighborhood deserves a bookstore even if it's just for one day. Families can purchase books discounted as well as get free books. b) National Night Out Book Donor who donated books as per ADM. c) Behind the Book, this org. has a huge free street book fair in Manhattan and the South Bronx. Behind the Book is a non-profit literacy organization that inspires New York City public school students to love reading. d) The Bronx is Reading, this org. promotes literacy and fosters a love of reading among children, teens, and adults through its multidimensional initiatives including the annual Bronx Book Festival, The Bronx is Reading Literacy Program, a monthly book club, as well as their pop-up (currently closed due to COVID-19) and online bookstore. Note: Currently in a fundraising

campaign to bring a bookstore to the Bronx, and is resuming their annual in person popular Book Festival 2022 in June. e) The Lit. Bar, this store opened its doors on April 27, 2019 (National Indie Bookstore Day) and is currently the only brick & mortar bookstore serving the 1.5 million residents of the Bronx. f) Start Lighthouse was founded in Bronx, NY, Start Lighthouse is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to narrowing the literacy gap through a social justice lens. v2045@aol.com

- E. Alfred McDowell, New Path Horse Academy has a nonprofit organization that hopes to have programs set up for the youth in CB9. Alfred has 2 horses ready in training now. As per Alfred, horse therapy is great for the youth and will be an opportunity for something different in the community as the barn in Pelham Parkway is last known stable in the Bronx. Alfred will be presenting at the general board meeting next week and requesting a letter of support for his projected site.
- F. As per BM Daniel Porro school security police officers are not outside to prevent pan handlers and people with mental illness to loiter around schools. As per ADM Alonzo, this item can be add to CB9's District Needs Statement under need for additional school safety officers.
- G. Dilem Valenzuela, Community Health Educator from the DOHMH NYC Poison Control Center. The NYC Poison Control Center is available 24/7/365 - fast, free, confidential. Translation services are available in 150 languages. Call 212-764-7667 with any questions about medicines, cleaners and disinfectants. We are also available to provide FREE workshops for community groups. If you are interested please feel to reach out vdilem@health.nyc.gov. To request a community education presentation, click <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6046718/Request-a-Presentation-PCC>. Check out their website at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/poison-control.page> to register for our upcoming trainings. To order Poison Control Center material: <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/poison/safety-material-order-form.pdf>
I have also included the training schedule for the March webinars which includes the registration links. There are several trainings listed but I wanted to point out the Poison Prevention Week webinars hosted on March 21 - March 25 as well as the Womb to World: Prep your Home for Baby's Arrival! on March 21st .
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/environmental/healthy-homes-trainings-workshops-2022.pdf>
Poison Control, Tues the 22nd on cannabis and on Friday webinar for ESL, medicine safety and poison prevention, womb to world, how to get ready for baby on March 21st in English and Spanish
- H. Cristina Calderon, Community Engagement Coordinator - Community Affairs Unit, Office of the Bronx District spoke regarding several upcoming events including a child safety fair happening in the next few weeks, flyers will be included in the email bulletin.
AttorneyCalderonc@bronxda.nyc.gov, 347-501-1789
- I. Teaching Brainiac's mission is to feed the minds of the future leaders of tomorrow while empowering the community and families. PHONE: (347) 925-6099, EMAIL: TEACHINGBRAINIACS@GMAIL.COM, WEBSITE: WWW.TEACHINGBRAINIACS.COM
- J. LeShonda Belton, T.H. Fairy Godmother, gadqitgyrl001@gmail.com is hosting a food distribution at Sotomayor on March 12th and 26th from 12-2pm.

III. New Business

A. April Agenda Items

- **Amalia Oliva Rojas, Community Partnerships Program Manager - GIRL BE HEARD**

IV. DM Report

- A. As per DM Rivera, he is scheduled to meet with the new superintendent soon and will invite her to the next Y&E Meeting in April and will share any new contacts with the committee
- B. CB9 staff is back in the renovated office with old furniture and computers and is awaiting new equipment to come in 2 months from now or so. The hope is to move in new furniture and equipment during summer recess
- C. DM Rivera is contemplating starting committee meetings at 6:30pm moving forward
- D. 2022 NYC Mayoral Service Recognition Awards Nomination Form:
https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6624662/2022-NYC-Mayoral-Service-Recognition-Awards-Nomination-Form?mc_cid=a7f65457ab&mc_eid=84cb9fb0a2

OFFICE INFO

District Manager William Rivera - wrivera@cb.nyc.gov
Phone (718) 823-3034 - Fax (718) 823-6461 - Office Email bx09@cb.nyc.gov - Website nyc.gov/bxcb9
Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM