

**Brooklyn Community Board 9**  
**890 Nostrand Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, New York 11225**

**Health and Social Services Committee Minutes**

**November 3, 2022**  
**Meeting ID: 845 4081 7100**

**Attendance (Board Members):** Francisca Leopold, Committee Chair; Mayna Legoute; Milford Prewitt, Committee Secretary

**Attendance (Community Resident Members):** Enid Dillard; Kayla Williams; Cecilla Yampolsky

**Absent (Board Members):** Cheryl Wright

**Absent (Community Residents):** Karimah Griffin; Reyana McKenzie

**Guests:** Nicolas Almonor, CB9 Board Member; Dr, Kurt Kodroff, One Brooklyn Health

**CB9 Staff:** Mia N. Hilton, Asst. District Manager

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**1. Call to order**

- a. Meeting called to order at 7:05p.m.

**2. New Business**

- a. Leopold got the meeting started with an icebreaker, asking those in attendance “what are you most looking forward to in the coming holiday season?” Nearly everyone in attendance said they looked forward to eating, cooking, and relaxing with family and friends but Yampolsky said she is pregnant with her second child and was looking forward to her mother coming by to help cook. Leopold had the most ambitious plan – visiting family in Trinidad for their first family Christmas there. In an unrelated holiday wish, Prewitt said he hopes the Democrats have a strong election

**3. Old Business**

**a. Party For the Elders**

- i. Leopold said we will probably have the party for the seniors early next year. Too many logistical, budget, location and related unknowns must be estimated, Leopold said, and we started too late to hit this holiday. She said she spoke with NY Assembly Member Brian Cunningham about teaming up for a Valentines Day Party for seniors and he was receptive and will talk soon. Meanwhile she will call on a church where she has conducted events in the past and it could be “perfect” for us. Within the committee, she said there is a need for a planning sub-committee and an outreach sub-committee.

**ii. ADA Project continued**

1. Prewitt gave an update on ADA compliance in the district. He met with the Public Safety Committee and outlined the scope of what he is doing to those board members. They agreed to help him take photos that show small businesses out of compliance.

#### **4. Presentation**

##### **a. New Diabetes Center, Dr. Kurt Kodroff**

- i. Dr. Kurt Kodroff, an endocrinologist from One Brooklyn Health and a colleague of Dillard's, gave a presentation on the health network's recently launched diabetes treatment center at Utica Avenue and Eastern Parkway. He said the covid pandemic showed that people with diabetes were suffering at a far more disproportionate rate than the general population. He said an alarming number of hospitalizations among diabetics and worse outcomes sent a clear message that more needs to be done.
- ii. Three things were needed to bring the center to reality: a great team, advanced technology and great community partners experienced in peer-led self-management. While diabetes is a devastating disease it is a manageable disease, Dr. Kodroff said. But it defies the ability of one provider to handle it. You need expertise across different areas. Thus, the team consists of:
  1. Dr. Kodroff, an endocrinologist.
  2. dedicated nurse practitioner who specializes in diabetes
  3. diabetes education specialist who happens to be a RN.
  4. pharmacist to help people manage their medications.
  5. behavioral health specialist to help people deal with depression, which is not uncommon among diabetics.
  6. health coach who can guide people to community resources
  7. nutritionist for one-on-one counseling.
  8. As it relates to advanced technology, the team has a specialized retina camera that can tell in the same day if a person has diabetes or not and identify damage to the eyes.
  9. Previously, it took four days to make a diagnosis, the doctor said. Other technology includes advanced glucose monitoring, and point-of-care A1C testing. The Center has teamed up with a community-based organization called Health People which trains peer leaders to provide self-care education. The Center has 500 to 600 patients. It will depend on the committee to get the word out to the public and pass out flyers.
  10. When asked what the committee can do to advance the center's success, Leopold and Dillard said the committee functions as a conduit of information to get the word out through promotional flyers.
  11. Dillard pointed out that November was diabetes awareness month and she said anyone can be trained to become a peer educator regardless of medical education or health status.

#### **5. Other Business**

1. Search for Senior Centers

- a. A team was established to identify new senior citizen centers in the neighborhood and engage them in our social calendar.
- b. Budgeting For Senior Party
  - i. February 14<sup>th</sup> was established as the date for a senior party. The committee agreed on \$1,500. Leopold expected that Council Member Rita Joseph and State Assemblyman Brian Cunningham will help finance it.
  - ii. There will be no committee meeting in December

**6. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned 8:23pm