

Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225

Health & Social Services Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2023
Meeting ID: 845 4081 7100

Board Members (Present): Committee Chair Francisca Leopold; Mayna Legoute; Milford Prewitt

Community Resident Members (Present): Cecilia Yampolsky

Board Members (Absent): None

Community Resident Members (Absent): Alexandra Cameron; Enid Dillard; Jacqueline Love; Vanya Mayers; Reyna McKenzie; Kayla Williams

Guests: **Shauni L. Audain**, Community Affairs/Government Liaison for LiveOnNY, a human organ recovery service and end-of-life planning consultants; Stana Nakhle, the New York City Director of Outreach for New York State Department of Health

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

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 7pm

II. New Business

- a. Presentation, Stana Nakhle, the New York City Director of Outreach for NYS Dept. of Health
 - i. the state needs CB9’s network of connections to compel people to renew their coverage. She said it’s a daunting effort.
 - ii. Beginning this spring and continuing through spring 2024, more than 9 million New Yorkers enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan – otherwise known as Obamacare which was expressly designed for low-income individuals, the homeless and poor families — will need to renew their health insurance. Enrollees in these public health insurance programs have not had to renew their coverage since early 2020 due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) continuous coverage requirements, she added.
 - iii. For the first time in three years, consumers will have to act and if they don’t, they’ll lose their coverage,” she said. This is unheard of. Unprecedented. And we are really, really worried that people will not do what they are supposed to do. And one day they are going to go in their account or the pharmacy and find out they have no health insurance.”
 - iv. The December 2022 federal Consolidated Appropriations Act included new rules ending the continuous coverage requirements starting Spring 2023. These new federal rules now require states, including New York State,

to begin redetermining eligibility for public program enrollees in Obamacare by Spring of 2023.

- v. Financial aid is available for families that are income eligible. But the only way consumers can get financial aid is to go through us
 - vi. Renewal notices were sent to enrollees in these programs by NYS Department of Health, Human Resources Administration (HRA), and local Departments of Social Services beginning spring 2023, which will include the deadline for an enrollee to take action to renew their insurance or risk having a gap in coverage. Renewal notices will be sent on a rolling basis and renewal deadlines will be based on the enrollees' enrollment end dates and will range from June 30, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Consumers are encouraged to renew by the 15th of the month. But so far, a trickle of applications has been returned.
 - vii. There are 5,000 Assistors to help smooth the complexity of the enrollment and financial aid application — 811 in Brooklyn alone. The Assistors are hold-overs from Obamacare.
- b. Presentation, Shauni Audain, Community Affairs/Government Liaison for LiveOnNY, a human organ recovery service and end-of-life planning consultants
- i. Blacks and Hispanic New Yorkers urged to think about organ donation
 - ii. Audain said she attended the committee meeting as a stepping-stone to meet with the entire board. But first she wanted to give the committee a brief overview of what her organization does. LiveOnNewYork is an organ procurement organization serving 70% of the state.
 - iii. "We are saving lives," Audain said "It's not necessarily about getting people registered for organ donation, but also about having healthy conversations about end-of-life planning, and dispelling and debunking myths about organ transplants."
 - iv. She said she wanted to work with CB9 because our district is primarily made up of people of color, and they are often not part of the conversation when the subject is organ transplants. "So many people on the waiting list are black and brown and if we don't have people who are matches for us a lot more of us will remain waiting and unfortunately, a lot more of us will pass away."
 - v. Leopold was going to work Audain to find a date to present to CB9.

III. Old Business

- a. The Mental Health Symposium
 - i. The mental health symposium is set for May 4th as a Zoom conference at 7 pm,
 - ii. Leopold announced. Mia Hilton was working on a flyer format to be distributed by the end of the week.
 - iii. Enid Dillard, One Brooklyn Health, and a committee member, was also preparing content for the flyer, utilizing both old and new media formats.
 - iv. Leopold said the speakers include a person from King's County Hospital to discuss mental health treatment, a social worker to discuss mental health trends in the black community, a district attorney to discuss the intersection between crime and mental health, a senior police officer to discuss protocols when cops respond to a person having a psychotic episode and others.

IV. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

Submitted by : Milford Prewitt