

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225
Health & Social Services Committee Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2023
Meeting ID: 845 4081 7100

Attendance (Board Members): Committee Chair and Second Vice Chair of the CB9 Executive Board Francisca Leopold; Mayna Legoute; Milford Prewitt

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Enid Dillard; Karimah Griffin; Kayla Williams

Absent (Board Members): Cheryl Wright

Absent (Community Resident Members): Karimah Griffin; Reyana McKenzie

Guests: Nicolas Almonor, CB9

CB9 Staff: Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager

I. Call To Order

a. Meeting called to order at 7:06pm

- i.** Chair Leopold got the meeting started by having committee members re-introduce themselves and what they want to achieve for the new year. Leopold's icebreaker led her to describe why it would be useful to practice gratitude in life. She shared something from her own life that highlights gratefulness. On Dec. 1 her husband had hip-replacement surgery. He was elated that the surgery was a success with no complications. He was due to spend a week in the hospital, but three days later he had a stroke in the hospital. The stroke led to pneumonia, which led to infections, all of which led to Covid. "People say 'wow, you are going through so much,' Leopold said. "But I say no I'm not because I am blessed because he is alive. So, despite everything, I'm grateful. I see the positive in this and despite the bad that most people would see, I look for the good."

II. Old Business

a. Outreach to Seniors

- i.** Leopold said she wants the New Year to be one of engagement with seniors and she expects the Outreach Committee to lead the charge. As discussed last year, Leopold said the CB has done a pitiful job over the last several years visiting senior centers, adult daycare, and old-folks homes and determining what their needs are.

III. New Business

i. Mental Illness

- 1.** An area Leopold wants the committee to engage in is the treatment and care for mental illness. She said mental health disorders are becoming widespread in society and CB9 is not immune. Whether it's cops overreacting to a citizen suffering a psychotic episode or the pressures of a single mom raising young kids in a tough neighborhood or the agony of long-term unemployment or the effects of drug abuse, maintain mental illness has risen to be a high priority in many cities. She said we should have a forum in which several other community boards would be asked to participate and thrash out how to find community treatment resources for our respective constituencies. The police should be a major participant in such a forum,

she said. Police involvement is vital given the number of incidents they encounter which often ends violently. “So, we’d like to know how they identify and tell the difference between” someone having trouble versus someone making trouble,” Leopold explained. She said she spoke with Councilperson Rita Joseph and State Rep. Brian Cunningham, and they are both eager to join CB9 in doing something “big” along the mental health crisis.

ii. Idle Young People and AIDS

1. Leopold argued that AIDS is making a come-back in the district, penetrating the neighborhood through idle young people who aren’t working, aren’t in school or vocational programs. She urged the board to consider proposing a program we could arrange to combat HIV. “There are a lot of young people who are dealing with this, and it’s being swept under the rug.”

iii. Selecting a Target Audience

1. Leopold identified five target audiences that the board could work with: Seniors, young people, the mental health community, maternal care and HIV. Each committee member picked one or two target audiences to tackle, and the top three vote getters were
 - a. Mental health (6 votes)
 - b. Youth (5 votes)
 - c. Seniors (4 votes)

iv. Helping Youth Eat Right

1. The Youth and Education Committees of CB9 need to be consulted on our plans for Youths and invited to join us, Leopold said. She added that nutrition information should be a vital element of our communication with youths and proposed several ways to engage youth at school, mainly through parent-teacher weeks when the committee could provide information or speakers on diabetes and cooking healthily. She said nothing highlights that need more than the obese girl she saw on the bus one morning, maybe 9-to-11 years old, eating sweet-and-sour pork and chips at 9 am. “you can already see where she’s headed, Leopold said. “We need to bring some awareness to our schools and if there are already programs in motion, then we need to double-up on it.”
2. **Getting Involved in Mental Health** Leopold said at our next meeting she hopes to invite Councilperson Rita Joseph and others to help us plan a forum on mental health.

IV. Adjournment

- a. **Meeting adjourned 8:05pm.**

Submitted by Milford Prewitt
January 9, 2023