



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

REVISED

February 12th, 2024

Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee **Meeting Minutes**

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Warren Davis, Vice Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey
Anatole Ashraf
Nellie Afshar
Leticia Vasquez

Absentees:

Kelly Craig
John Bahia
Danielle Brecker
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos (excused)
Phuntsok Tashi
Benjamin Lucas

Atanu Majumdar – Public Member
Julie Chou – Public Member

Guest

Dr. Dave Chokshi

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, Community Board 2

Lauren Springer, Chair Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Lauren Springer stated Warren Davis will be giving a presentation on the NorthStar CAB updates.

Warren Davis introduced himself and stated he was giving a presentation on what is discussed at the CAB meetings:

- CAB stands for Community Advisory Board.
- CAB is made up of members of the community, members of the community board, businesses, and the public.

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

- There are three types of shelters.
 - Permanent shelters (NorthStar is a permanent shelter)
 - Temporary shelters.
 - Migrant shelters
- The difference between a permanent shelter and a temporary shelter is what the public can do or not do in terms of reaching out to the directors or providers of those shelters.
- Cityview and Suite Home Suites are two temporary shelters in this area.
- What makes a shelter a temporary shelter is that they house different populations. The first year for Cityview was family, the next year was men and then it was women and now it is migrants. Each housing had a different provider.
- Permanent Shelters have CAB meetings that are open to the public. These meetings take place between 3 and 4 months.
- The Borden Avenue Shelter for Men, the Veteran’s Shelter has meetings that take place every 4 months. This shelter does have some members that are not veterans.
- Warren Davis speaks to the providers at these shelters with the assistance of the Department of Homeless Services.
- The migrant shelters are taken care of by the Mayor’s office who gives direction mostly to for-profit organizations. The migrant shelters have no known point person.
- In Julie Won’s district there are 30 migrant shelters.
- The Department of Homeless Services oversees 360 contracted shelters in NYC. This number includes both Permanent and Temporary Shelters. Single adults represent the largest share in the shelters. The average stay for adult families is over 28 months.
- Warren Davis stated the rents are not so affordable for people to move out of the shelters.
- Below are the links of the reports that Warren Davis shared with the committee.
- [Comptroller Lander Releases Review of NYC Shelter System, Focusing on Both “Pathways In” & “Pathways Out” : Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander](#)
- [StateoftheHomeless2023.pdf \(coalitionforthehomeless.org\)](#)
- [https://www.nyc.gov/html/endinghomelessness/downloads/pdf/ch6_minimize_duration.pdf](#)
- Warren Davis shared with the committee the NorthStar Community Advisory Board meeting minutes. (**NorthStar CAB Minutes are attached**)
- NorthStar has been open since June 2018.
 - They host adult families
 - There are 153 rooms.
 - 302 residents.
 - 3 meals are provided every day.
 - Common area to eat and heat their food.
 - Full Laundry service is provided.

- They have a program director, 1 housing supervisor, social service director, 2 social service supervisors, 7 case managers, 2 employment specialist, 1 van driver.
- The challenges at NorthStar are substance abuse issues and mental health issues.
- Warren Davis mentioned to the committee, that attending a Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting for a shelter is very in-formidable.
- The data obtained from the CAB meeting is very useful. For example, from these reports you learn how many residents are employed, have disabilities and are elderly.
- Warren Davis stressed how important it is to get the community involved with the shelters to learn what goes on and their needs.
- Warren Davis stated that the need is there for used clothing.

Lauren Springer introduced Dr. Dave Chokshi.

- Dr. Dave Chokshi gave an update on COVID-19 in NYC.
- The NYC Health Department maintains a Covid-19 data page.
To view the data page, google - NYC Health Department Covid19 data and you will see all the latest trends.
- The link is: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page>
- Covid is still circulating in the city and various neighborhoods, but the trend is lowering.
- People who are older or have a chronic medical condition, specifically a weakened immune system, are more at risk.
- To mitigate this risk the most important thing to do is be vaccinated.
- The latest variant is named JN.1
- The vaccine administered last Fall does offer protection against this variant.
- Plaxlovid is the medicine used for treatment of Covid-19.
- Dr. Chokshi stressed that masks do work, open the windows in your home for air circulation, air purifiers are important to use as well.
- The data on the Covid site does not come from waste-water testing. It comes from what is reported by health care providers.
- Lauren Springer, Chair asked Dr. Chokshi about his NY Times article “Focusing on Health rather than Longevity”.
- Dr. Choksi appreciated Lauren Springer mentioning the article. He stated the idea was about health span which is what each of cares about for our loved ones and ourselves. Is not necessarily living to 100 but really about the quality of life that we have. Thinking about what we all know contribute to the quality of life beyond healthcare. It is our housing, education systems, clean water, going to parks and feeling safe, being able to breathe pure air and not have that be contaminated by wild fire smoke.
- The article can be found at this link.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/28/opinion/aging-public-health-healthspan.html>

Old / New Business

Lauren Springer mentioned to the committee to look over old meeting minutes at the information that was obtained and how would the committee want to share that information with the community.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber