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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
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June 13th, 2022

Health and Human Services and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Clara Oza, Co-Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey
John Bahia
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Absentees:

Sandra Bigitschke
Jewel Chowdhury
Selena Romero
Phuntsok Tashi
Mary Torres

Guest

Mandi Zucker, LSW, CT (Founder of Inner Harbor)
Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services
Aneta Kuclo, Public Health Solutions

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, Community Board 2

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

Lauren Springer introduced Mandi Zucker, Founder of Inner Harbor. She spoke about her work providing support to youth experiencing different kinds of losses and how that work might be incorporated into our neighborhood.

- Mandi Zucker, is a social worker bereavement counselor; she started 25 years ago in hospice. She did that for 12 years and then worked for a non-profit grief support center.
- When her older son was leaving for college, that freshman year, his friend committed suicide. Mandi Zucker found out that his friend lost his dad when he was 14 years old.
- During those years, there is support out there for kids and older adults but not a lot of support for young adults going through different transitions in life regarding loss.
- It was at that moment that Mandi Zucker decided to start her own organization.

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

- Her main goal is to help those young adults transitioning from high school to college or from other major life transitions.
- Mandi Zucker noted that grief is normal.
- She does a lot of workshops and consultations with schools and non-profits and other agencies.
- Inner Harbor is a national organization based in New Jersey. It isn't a not-for-profit organization.
- Mandi Zucker works throughout the United States.
- She conducts the workshops herself with the clients going through difficulty and also with staff. In addition to doing workshops with staff and those dealing losses, she offers train-the-trainer programming.
- Her clients are through word of mouth she also has a newsletter that comes out on Tuesdays and has a social media presence.
- Mandi Zucker has written in her newsletter about suicide, suicide prevention, support for a suicide loss, parents divorcing, current events, not getting into college, relationship breakups, being diagnose with a chronic illness, etc.
- You can sign up for the newsletter through the website www.Inner-Harbor.org. All newsletters are archived.
- She charges a service fee. Her rate is typically \$300.00 per hour but she will work with the organization's budget.
- Workshops can be one hour or two days; it all depends on how deep into discussion the company wants to go.
- Mandi Zucker also works with schools and organizations on bereavement policies, how to communicate with staff on this topic, and how to accommodate individuals after a significant loss. There is a lot of talk about maternity / paternity leave but there is no federal policy on bereavement leave. Another organization named Evermore is spearheading legislative efforts regarding bereavement.
- Mandi Zucker recently did a workshop for Gantry Kids. The kids were struggling with in-person learning at school and then she did a workshop for the parents on how to support the children that are struggling with in-person learning.
- The need for mental health services has become much more profound since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was suggested to Mandi Zucker how beneficial her knowledge would be to the schools in the beginning of the school year with guidance counselors and teachers.
- A committee member suggested adding Mandi Zucker's Inner Harbor information to the CB2 newsletter.
- Mandi Zucker also does one-on-one sessions with individuals. The fee would be charged through the person's insurance and can be anywhere from \$150 to \$175 per session. However, they would have to be in New Jersey. Ms. Zucker mentioned, however, that she can provide referrals to NYS resources.

Aneta Kuclo, of Public Health Solutions, spoke briefly about her organization.

- They are a non-profit organization that offers COVID relief programs, SNAP enrollment, health insurance, WIC sites in Astoria and Corona, maternal & child health programs.
- Aneta Kuclo is visiting Community Board meetings in Western Queens.
- For more information about Public Health Solutions visit www.healthsolutions.org

Discussion of the HHSE Committee's mission statement, goals and stakeholder's document

Lauren Springer, Chair of the HHSE Committee shared and went over with the committee the mission statement, goals and stakeholders.

- The committee will combine some of the goals.
- It was mentioned having more local speakers on various topics as opposed to people that are not in the area.
- The committee will work on future speakers for upcoming meetings.
- Local stakeholders will be added to spreadsheet.
- Short discussion on in person meetings.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a safe, happy, healthy summer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber