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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

March 13th, 2023

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
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Absentees:

John Bahia
Sandra Bigitschke
Jewel Chowdhury
Selena Romero
Phuntsok Tahi

Public Members

Julie Chou
Atanu Majumdar
Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services

Guest

Professor Diana Romero, Principal Investigator, Health Equity and Access to Care (HEAC) at the CUNY School of Public Health
Samantha Weckesser, Project Coordinator, HEAC Project at the CUNY School of Public Health

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, Community Board 2

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

Lauren Springer started the meeting with introducing Professor Diana Romero who will be presenting on the Health Equity and Access to Care (HEAC) Project at the CUNY school of Public Health.

Diana Romero introduced herself and began a power-point presentation on the Health Equity and Access to Care (HEAC) Project.

- Diana Romero is a professor at CUNY School of Public Health.

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

- Samantha Weckesser is the Project Coordinator for the HEAC project at CUNY School of Public Health.
- This project is funded by the NYC Health and Mental Hygiene Department through fiscal year 2024.
- NYC Department of Health conducted an analysis last year that revealed significant differences in New Yorker's use of hospital services.
- These findings were from hospital administrative data (NYS SPARCS).
- This data cannot explain the "why" as to why people of color and uninsured/Medicaid insured are less likely to use private hospital services.
- NYC Dept. of Health wanted to qualitatively explore the "why" across NYC and that is why they partnered with CUNY School of Public Health to do so.
- Focus groups were formed to better understand healthcare segregation in NYC.
- Diana Romero discussed the focus group questions.
- This project and focus groups will involve multiple phases from 6/2022 to 6/2024.
- Focus groups are presently being done virtually. However, on their flyer the project coordinators would want to accommodate those that cannot meet virtually.
- Diana Romero entertained questions from the Health & Human Services and Education committee regarding the focus groups.
- When the project is completed, they will be sharing the data through Open Access.
- Their plan is to start phase two in July 2023, however, it might take longer into FY 2024.
- They have three to five focus groups for each category.
- The first phase will have at least 24 focus groups.
- When it comes to specific groups, for instance the vulnerable and formerly incarcerated, the project organizers will want to work with community partnerships.
- When working with the vulnerable who are not US citizens, there is a Guarantee of Confidentiality Form which is an additional layer of protection for that person.
- A discussion was held on assuring the focus group attendees that their personal information is confidential. They could have an info session beforehand to see if attendees want to participate.
- The focus groups have an attendance of no more than 6 people on zoom, in person there is usually 8.
- Lauren Springer, Chair of the Health & Human Services and Education Committee mentioned the presenters of Health Equity and Access to Care Project could speak at the full board meeting on April 13th, 2023 to get the word out about this project.
- CB2 can help this project by distributing their flyer to the community.

Old / New Business:

The Health & Human Services & Public Safety Committee mentioned their guest for next month.

The committee discussed compiling info for the Resource Guide for families with young children.

- The guide would identify resources for families prior to the summer.
- To invite William Jourdain who is the Director of Woodside on the Move as they have a summer program for children.

It was mentioned to invite someone to speak about primary care for the LGBTQ community.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber