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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

October 16th, 2023

Health and Human Services and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Warren Davis
Nellie Afshar
Leticia Vasquez

Absentees:

Kelly Craig
John Bahia
Sandra Bigitschke
Phuntsok Tashi
Danielle Brecker
Tom Mituzas

Julie Chou – Public Member

Atanu Majumdar – Public Member

Public Members

Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services

Guest

Bijan Kimiagar, Citizen's Committee for Children of NY
Laura Jankstrom, Citizen's Committee for Children of NY
Debbie Farley
Andrew Rubinson, Urban Dove

Community Board 2 Staff

Maryann Gurrado, Community Board 2

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

Lauren Springer mentioned that the Health & Human Services and Education Committee will now officially include the Unhoused & Shelter Task Force Committee.

Lauren Springer introduced Andrew Rubinson of Urban Dove who will be discussing the proposal for a western queens-based transfer school.

- Urban Dove has 25 years of experience running a youth development program in NYC.

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

- Urban Dove started as a community-based youth development organization and morphed into running two transfer high schools. One in Brooklyn and one in the Bronx.
- They serve 15- and 16-year-olds who have tried and not passed 9th grade.
- They focus on this age group as certain credits are needed to pass high school.
- Students are organized by teams when they enter a transfer school.
- They are placed on a same gender team with a full-time coach.
- The coach and the team travel throughout the day together around the school.
- Andrew Rubinson shared a presentation on Urban Dove (***presentation is attached***)
- Nearly 100,000 kids who fall behind will drop out. This usually takes place in the 9th grade.
- There is a zero-reject policy that ensures every student can find a seat.
- In Queens, there are only 5 transfer schools in the entire borough.
- Urban Dove works on the social and the emotional well-being of the student before the academics so they make the choice to want to go to school.
- For the new Queens location school, the priority will be given to those students that reside in Queens.
- Short discussion on graduation rate, demographics and where students go if they don't graduate from the transfer school and how they do recruitment for the students.
- The Health Committee suggested to reach out to the parent coordinators at the schools as there are many shelters in the Queens area.

Lauren Springer introduced Laura Jankstrom and Bijan Kimiagar from Citizen's Committee for Children of NY (CCC)

- Laura Jankstrom, Associate Executive Director for Civic Engagement began the presentation. She manages the communication and community engagement initiatives.
- CCC has been around since 1944. They were founded by Eleanor Roosevelt as well as other influential New Yorkers who saw the need for laws and policies to protect children.
- Their mission is to ensure that every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.
- Their presentation today is about data and civic engagement opportunities.
- They have a 14-week community leadership course for adults every Fall.
- They have Youth Action Advocacy Program which started in 1999.
- They do provide training and workshops for the community.
- Sign up for their E-action network is at www.cccnewyork.org
- Students find out about this organization from their school.
- Bijan Kimiagar, Associate Executive Director of Research continued the presentation by discussing the research and data resources.
- Their data is always available for the community, elected officials and service providers that have the daily contact with children and families.
- They have a resource of Keeping Track Online which includes hundreds of indicators on children, the environment they live in and the systems that serve them.

- This data can be found at www.data.cccnetwork.org
- This data is used to identify needs and assets.
- Research and Data Publications can be found at www.cccnewyork.org/research-and-analysis
- Bijan Kimiagar of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York shared a link regarding a map of NYCHA locations, and community schools available on their database, <https://data.cccnewyork.org/assetmapping#?domain=1245&assets=Public%20School%20FCommunity%20School%7CNYCHA&communities=8%7C17%7C49&zoom=14¢er=40.75631934509907,-73.92470836514356>
- Their data helps them identify barriers for a child's well-being.
- This data helps policy makers understand where these barriers are overlapping.
- This data will show race/ethnicity of child population in communities with greatest barriers to well-being as well as fewest barriers to well-being.
- The poverty level for a family of four is \$28,000 annually.
- There is a severe rent burden issue in NYC. Households spend more than half of their income on rent.
- There must be more city, state and federal assistance for the families that are dealing with the greatest barriers.
- Bijan Kimiagar, Citizens' Committee for Children of New York shared an informative link: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cccnewyork.org/2022/03/QN02.pdf>

Old Business:

Discussion took place on the NYC Council Bill Intro 1099-2023 regarding the healthcare choice of retired NYC employees.

Debbie Farley explained more about this bill:

- Part of the confusion on this bill was how retirees are being denied medicare by this bill.
 - Debbie Farley explained that if you are put into a MAP (Medicare Advantage Plan) you are no longer in traditional medicare.
 - Retirees pay a fee for their medicare and the retirees feel they should determine who gets that fee.
 - Retirees would rather the government and a private trust get the fee than a private insurance company.
- The other issue is if you are forced into a medicare advantage plan you cannot supplement that plan with a Medigap plan.
- Retirees feel the insurance plan they would get when retired was part of their career choice.

Lauren Springer, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee suggested to urge the elected officials to support NYC Council Bill Intro 1099-2023 and recommended that the CB2 Board vote in support of this Bill. The Health & Human Services Committee agreed with this recommendation.

New Business:

- A committee member queried if the Health & Human Services committee could meet at 6pm.
- Discussion on high schools, charter schools and transfer schools.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber