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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

February 14th, 2022

Health and Human Services and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Sandra Bigitschke
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Clara Oza

Absentees:

Mohammed Z. Choudhury Jewel
Selena Romero
Regina Shanley
Mary Torres

Excused:

Amparo Abel-Bey

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, Community Board 2

Guest

Clara Londono, Assistant Director of Community Affairs at Elmhurst Hospital
Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services

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

Lauren Springer asked Andrea Thomas of Sunnyside Community Services for an update:

- Andrea Thomas mentioned that SCS is hosting a couple of vaccine clinics and booster vaccines on Wednesday February 16 and Thursday February 17 from 3pm to 7pm. It will be open to the public
- A flyer will be sent to the CB2 office regarding the COVID testing.
- Social Adult Day Program is a fully virtual program due to the Omicron virus.
- Sr. Center for active adults is slowly getting back to in person.
- Home health aide training program will be moving to the LIC location mid-April early May.
- The SCS home health aide training program is always looking for participants for this program.

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

Lauren Springer introduced Clara Londono, Assistant Director of Community Affairs at Elmhurst Hospital.

- Clara Londono reached out to the Community Board as she wants to be more involved with the community.
- If anyone wants to work with the Elmhurst Hospital providers regarding vaccines and testing, they can reach out to her. They have providers who work in English and Spanish.
- If there is an event going on in the community, they can provide information and education about Elmhurst Hospital.
- The numbers are presently going down for the Omicron virus, however, testing will continue and the community needs to be motivated to get the vaccine.
- Elmhurst Hospital is available for testing and to get the vaccine during the week.
- As an incentive, the city is offering \$100 to anyone who will get the vaccine.
- They are giving the booster vaccine at Elmhurst Hospital, no appointment is needed, 8am to 4pm Mon-Fri. and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. However, the schedule might be changing.
- Since August 2021, Clara Londono and her team have been going to the neighborhood bodegas to encourage and educate about the vaccine which has been very helpful. Not only the covid vaccine but also the flu vaccine.
- Clara Londono is also working with the schools as well as the community boards regarding these health issues.
- The children vaccination is low in the community.
- It is almost 97% with the adult vaccination.
- They have been attending the parent teacher conferences to answer any questions from the parents.
- A question was asked how the Health & Human Services and Education Committee can help her? Ms. Londono replied if there are any events happening in the CB2 community to send her the information and she could attend as well and inform and educate the community about different health concerns.
- Elmhurst Hospital works with Mt. Sinai Hospital if further assistance is needed for the community during trauma situations.
- Elmhurst Hospital also does amazing work with cardiovascular, trauma and orthopedic situations, it is not only used for emergency care.
- Elmhurst Hospital does not have the promotion like other hospitals.
- A committee member mentioned that a lot more effort in the direction of promoting the hospital and all the areas of concern that are covered at Elmhurst Hospital would be helpful to the community.
- There are many services available to the community for those that cannot afford to pay.
- Elmhurst Hospital has learned a lot from this pandemic. They realize they don't have to do it all. And also, the importance of a great emergency room, which is one of their capital projects, to expand it.

Lauren Springer mentioned to the committee that the Health & Human Services and Education Committee will be working on a mission statement, goals and a stakeholders document of the Health & Human Services and Education Committee.

- A stakeholders document would consist of 15-20 stakeholders in the community.
- A stakeholder would represent an organization or group that the community can be engaged with and share their knowledge when different topics arise.
- As far as stakeholders are concerned, there are three questions that should be asked:
 - Who should know what our committee does?
 - What do we want them to know?
 - How do we get in touch with them, via email, twitter, etc.
- This would be a work in progress to work on a mission statement.
- One of the goals would be to be more actively involved with the community and not just a repository of meeting information.
- Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services will assist with community partners.
- Clara Londono, Elmhurst Hospital contributed to this topic by suggesting mental health should be a top priority as well as nutrition, preventive care, elder care. Especially during this pandemic, the elderly are in much need of the food pantries.
- Also working with the children and parents at parent teacher organizations.
- Lauren Springer mentioned that when thinking about stakeholders, she thinks of some of the presenters at previous HHSE Committee meetings, for example Child Center of New York and Hour Children.
- It was suggested to work in google doc.
- Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos brought up the Human Services part of this committee and what does that mean? And the Homeless Shelters is suppose to be a sub committee.
- Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos offered to make a google spreadsheet to and the stakeholders list.
- As far as the Mission Statement goes for the HHSE Committee:
 - The committee will work on it together.
 - The mission purpose of the committee, whether it is to make recommendations to the community at large.
 - Understanding the role of the committee will better define what the mission statement would be.
 - The information is great, but what does the committee do with that information that is gathered at the HHSE meetings.
 - Whether there is a role for the committee to share with the larger CB2 committee.
 - How is this information being used ?
- Chair Springer went on to mention that this is about informing the community about a part of what the CB2 Community Board does.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber