



Donovan Richards  
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# Community Board No. 2

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Morry Galonoy  
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Health and Human Services and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

*This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom*

### **Attendees:**

Lauren Springer, Chair  
Clara Oza, Co-Chair  
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos  
Ryan Smith  
Morry Galonoy

### **Absentees:**

Amparo Abel-Bey (*Excused*)  
Sandra Bigitschke  
Jewel Chowdhury  
Selena Romero  
Mary Torres

### **Guest**

Chae No – NYC-DOHMH  
Tseyang – Councilmember Julie Won's Office

### **Community Board 2 Staff**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, Community Board 2

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

Lauren Springer introduced Chae No from the Queens Borough NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and he introduced himself, and stated he covers the entire borough of Queens.

- He's been working there for 6 years.
- Chae No discussed COVID alert levels, guidance about masks and guidance of boosters.
- 78% of New Yorkers are fully vaccinated.
- 88% adults and 59% children
- Total of 6,500,000 are vaccinated.
- Only 38% of New Yorkers have the booster vaccine, which is of concern.
- NYC is in the medium COVID alert level which means a surge of cases in hospitals in NYC.
- Current stats are 8.23% daily average positively rate, 3,400 cases and 53 hospitalizations.
- Vast majority of these cases are omicron BA2 related.

*"Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth"*

- Small percentage also omicron but not BA2.
- This variant is a high community spread and highly contagious.
- New Yorkers should stay up to date with their COVID vaccines, if you haven't received a booster-get a booster, in public in door settings wear a face mask
- If you have symptoms or were exposed, get tested.
- For further information on COVID alert system visit [www.nyc.gov/covidalert](http://www.nyc.gov/covidalert)
- Masks are required in NYC on public transportation and at NYS airports and at health care settings and nursing homes and rehab homes.
- Masks are optional now at schools.
- Businesses can choose to have their own requirements in place.
- If you test positive, please call your healthcare provider or 212-covid 19 for treatment options.
- If you are prescribed anti-viral medicine the city will deliver them the same day in partnership with your pharmacy for free.
- Second Booster shot is now available for those that are 50 years of age or older, and who have had their first booster shot 4 months ago, 12 years and up and are immune compromised, 18 years and older and have received two doses of the J&J vaccine
- Second booster shots are available at City run vaccine sites.
- If you received your first booster shot 4 months ago, you are definitely eligible for the 2<sup>nd</sup> booster. It takes 2 -3 weeks for the booster to reach full effect.
- Test Kit Distribution Sites: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page#test-kit-pickup>
- The test kits are being distributed through Test & Trace and City Hall.
- The test kits are paid for by tax-payers funds.
- NYC based organizations are welcomed to join in the test kit distribution.
- Health & Hospitals who runs Test & Trace will contact those organizations interested in helping with test kit organizations.
- Health & Hospitals would arrange for delivery of the test kits.
- In order to receive testing kits the organizations targeted have to be NYC based non-profits, 501(c)3, NYC faith-based, high needs communities, neighborhoods that were highly impacted and lacked testing options. Legal agreements have to be signed and monitoring of the testing kits.
- This program is not for for-profit organizations like businesses, schools, elected officials, political campaigns.
- Private organizations can be found at [www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](http://www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder)
- City Run Vaccine Sites: <https://vax4nyc.nyc.gov/patient/s/>
- For COVID-19 data: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page#daily>
- Vaccination buses are operated by an off shoot of the Health & Hospitals Corporation.
- To find out the location of vaccination buses you would have to reach out to your Health & Hospitals contact.
- NYC DOHMH advertise awareness of the COVID virus, on buses, trains, kiosks, you tube

- A question was asked about the time between each booster. The first booster was required after 6 months from the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine and now the second booster is required 4 months after the 1<sup>st</sup> booster. The time between has shortened.
- Chae No stated the reason for this shortened time is due to gathering data information of vaccine efficacy. Data is constantly being gathered.
- It has been a year and six months since the first vaccine was given.
- People not seeking general care due to COVID is definitely concerning to the health department.
- Parents are falling behind in the vaccination schedule due to the COVID pandemic.
- Booster guidelines are based on information released from the CDC, ACEP and the FDA.
- CB2 can help NYC DOHMH by sharing information from the Social Media Kit: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1n93qUrEaML9jqbS20AdBB4jLroR3K6p1> And posting to the CB2 website.

Lauren Springer announced that Clara Oza will be Co-Chair of the Health & Human Services and Education Committee with a focus on education and youth. Morry Galonoy, CB2 Chairperson, mentioned that two new members will also be joining the HHSE Committee.

#### HHSE Committee's mission statement, goals and stakeholder's document

Lauren Springer shared the mission statement and goals with the committee to review and discuss.

- Lauren Springer mentioned that the Engagement and Inclusion Committee would be working with the mission statements from each committee and also to get feedback from the community itself.
- A committee member stated that it might be best to keep this information brief as residents can feel drown in too much information.
- Lauren Springer went over with the committee what the mission statement should consist of.
- A discussion took place on how to set up the stakeholders list and working on the spreadsheet.
  - To reach out to the Engagement and Inclusion Committee to see what they are specifically asking for.
  - To keep the list simple as contact information is constantly changing.
  - Adding both emails and websites to the stakeholders list can be very useful.
  - More clarity on the stakeholders list would be helpful in how this is all inputted and used.
  - To follow up with Sunnyside Community Services for their contacts.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber