



**BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY BOARD #3**

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**Health & Human Services Committee
Public Hearing Report**

DATE: January 3, 2023

TIME: 7:00PM

IN PERSON: No

VIRTUAL: Yes

SPEAKER: Yes

Committee Members Present

Frank Morano, Chairman of the Board
Diane Peruggia, Chair, Health & Human Services
Vincent Bonomi
Carmine Gualtieri
Harold Kozak
Michael Pinto
Verna Lauria
Dennis McKeon

Committee Members Absent

Patricia Conway
Verna Lauria
Vincent Malerba

Board Members Present

Albert Klingele

Staff

Charlene Wagner, *District Manager*
Stacey Wertheim, *Community Coordinator*

Guests

Priscilla Romero, NYC Regional Parent Advisor, NYS Families Together

Public Contact

None

Agenda

Priscilla Romero of Families Together in New York State (FTNYS) presented. Contracted by the Office of Mental Health, the program offers the following:

- Outreach and Information
- Engagement, Bridging and Transition Support
- Self-Advocacy and Empowerment
- Community Connections and Natural Supports
- Parent Skill Development
- Promotes Effective Family-Driven Practice.

To be a credentialed Family Peer Advocate (FPA) you must have navigated the following on behalf of your child(ren)

- Special Education
- Mental Health
- Behavioral Health
- Foster-care/Kinship
- Substance abuse/Addiction disorder
- Juvenile Justice

To be a credentialed Youth Peer Advocate (YPA) you must be between 18 and 30 years of age who self-identify as a person with first-hand experience with any of the following

- Social,
- Emotional,
- Medical,
- Developmental,
- Substance use, and/or behavioral challenges

If you've received any services in the child-serving systems below then you meet criteria to become a YPA

- Juvenile Justice
- Foster care
- Special education
- Addiction recovery

FTNYS in partnership with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFC), is seeking to employ Family Policy Advisors at the state level to assist OCFC in developing policies and procedures that promote the voice of parents throughout the child welfare system.

**Full presentation on file in the Community Board 3 Office*

Old Business

None

New Business

- A board member has concerns about Community Schools. He feels they usurp the position of the nuclear family. Other board members agreed.
- Dennis thanked everyone who donated to the Toy Drive. Where To Turn served over 180 families on Staten Island.
- Dennis will be recognized at the St. George Theatre mini-Gala in March for all the good he does for our schools and community.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Peruggia

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Chair, Health & Human Services Committee