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CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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Health & Human Services Committee
Monday, December 16, 2019 6:30PM -8:30PM
Chair, Hazel Dukes
Vice-Chair, Michelle Booker

Attendees: Hazel Dukes, Joshua Clennon, Christina Curry, Karen Dixon, Donna Gill, Cheryl Smith, Deborah Yates

Excused: Michelle Booker, Troy Gethers

Absent: Marcia Awobuluyi

Board Members Attendees: Mari Moss

Presenters: Hondo Martinez, (FACES NY), West 135th Street Harlem Block Association

Presentations:

**Urban Health Alliance – Phillip Allard, Dr. April McNeil
& Abdramane Prince Coulibaly**

Urban Health Alliance is a network of community health centers located in the Bronx, Queens, and Manhattan that are committed to improving the health of the communities they serve. Urban Health Alliance and Citicares Health Center located at 154 West 127th Street, began working together in 2001. Since, they have provided care to residents of the Harlem community. Their services include the following:

- Primary & specialty care services for all ages
- Specialty care is for Diabetes and Cardiology
- Women’s Health that includes Nurse Practitioners,
- Opiates addiction services that is supported by patients receiving primary care, behavioral health, and addiction rehabilitation services in one location. The Citicares location will add an Article 31 Behavioral Health Clinic.

At least 85% of their patients receive Medicaid or Medicare. For those with no insurance, they also offer sliding fee options.

Board members asked whether they had a relationship with Harlem Hospital and reiterated concerns regarding the number of substance abuse providers in the community. Mr. Allard indicated they have made multiple efforts to engage the hospital to no avail and underscored that the provider was not new to the community having served residents since 2001.

A community member stated that the lack of data impacts our ability to truly assess the needs of the community, in light of the fact that the demographics in the community continues to change. It was recommended that the community board facilitate a needs assessment in order to identify the services that would be beneficial to the community. Another community member reiterated the importance of men's health.

Public Health Lab & Harlem Hospital – Sheila Benjamin & Darrin Taylor, Assist. Commissioners at NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene

An overview of the new public health lab was provided by the presenters. The presentation indicated that the location of the lab would be at the Women's Pavilion located on the Harlem Hospital campus. The lab is currently located near Bellevue Hospital. The new location will provide for more space to accommodate new technology and equipment, along with 200 employees. Dr. Rakeman, Director of the Division of Disease Control reported that the lab would examine various strains of materials, working closely with the Center for Disease Control. It is anticipated that construction on the lab will begin in late January or early February of 2020 with the demolition of the Women's Pavilion.

Board members expressed concerns about job opportunities for the community including seniors and the disabled, as well as the new building being compliant with ADAAG (ADA Accessibility Guidelines) rules as opposed to the ADA (Americans with Disability Act) rules. Board and community members expressed concerns about the historical significance of the building as it relates to the hospital's role in training African American nurses and doctors.

Preserve Harlem's Legacy – Julius Tajiddin & Dr. Kay Samuels

Mr. Tajiddin presented the Preserve Harlem's Legacy initiative of preserving the remaining buildings of the Women's Pavilion at Harlem Hospital that existed back in 1958. He has secured signatures from residents of the community for a petition to preserve the structure. In his presentation, he cited that Touro College School of Pharmacy and Osteopathic Medicine choose to renovate the Blumstein building in lieu of demolition. *The request from the community board is a letter of support from the chairperson to preserve the Women's Pavilion complex and create a significant historical commemoration in the building.*

The Cliffs Presentation – Kade Diakite & Sharon Cooper

The Cliffs is a climbing and fitness center that will be opened on the 125th street corridor between Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. & Frederick Douglass Blvds. Their mission is to share the transformative power of climbing with underserved and underrepresented communities, regardless of age, race, or gender. They seek to work with local businesses to empower resilient, motivated, and passionate climbers through their program. The Cliffs offers several types of membership/programming:

- Learn to Climb packages
- Discounted membership
- Community Leadership Nights
- Scholarships to Color the Crag
- Outdoor Stewardship
- Discounted Day Passes

The group was encouraged to present at the next general board meeting.

Greater Harlem Coalition (GHC) – Shawn Hill

The Greater Harlem Coalition wants to hold city and state agencies accountable for ensuring that the programs currently in Harlem enhance the safety of our community as well as their patients. Mr. Hill reported on data

that was gathered from the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) that specifically corroborates the assertion that the Harlem community is saturated with substance programs disproportionate to the number of residents that are addicted. GHC reported that 6.9% of New Yorkers addicted to opioids live in Harlem but the 19.1% of opioid clinics are located in Harlem. GHC is also concerned that the large number of providers and consumers helps support ongoing drug sales in the community.

Board members indicated that an OASAS representative should be invited to attend a Health & Human Services Committee meeting, and recommended GHC to present at the general board meeting in January or February.

Old Business:

Draft Resolution for the E-cigarettes will be addressed in the January committee meeting.

Metropolitan CAB Report to be presented in the January committee meeting

New Business:

The committee agreed to present the letter of support for Harlem Hospital at the Executive Committee scheduled for Saturday, December 21, 2019 as there was no longer a quorum.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Karen Dixon

