CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor—New York, NY 10027
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

Health & Human Services Committee Report

215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor

Monday, September 21, 2015-6:30pm

Chair – Dr. Hazel Dukes

Vice Chair – Michelle Booker

Board Attendance:

Present: Dr. Hazel Dukes , Michelle Booker, Christina Curry, Ibrahima Diafoune, Donna Gill, Cicely Harris, Cheryl Smith, Deborah Yates,

Excused: Manny Rivera,

Absent: Melvin Christian, Camille Edelen, Steven Watkins

Guests:

Greer M. Ellis, FACES NY, Inc.

Jonathan Keith Joseph, MD. , HARLEM UNITED

Mileka Ackie, COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MEETING MINUTES

1. **FACES NY :** "Forging Ahead Community Empowerment Support" . Ms. Greer M. Ellis gave the presentation in lieu of Ms. Jody Stovell. The original purpose of FACES NY was to address the needs of HIV/AIDS awareness and treatment. Throughout its 30 year history this agency has evolved into providing services for health and disease education, case management services, HIV counseling & testing, food pantry and dinner programs and recreational activities for overall quality of life. In addition, FACES NY provides:
    a. **Access to Care Services** an array of women's services for domestic violence, housing, benefits assistance, substance use counseling & referral and vocational placement assistance.
    b. **Hire Project** is and re-entry service which links healthcare and social services, transitional housing assistance, and career development.
    c. **HIV Prevention, Care and Case Management Services**
    d. **Outspoken Project** is a community level intervention that encourages positive health behaviors for young men who have same sex partners.
    e. **Housing Services** to support those who are in the case management and need support services.
    f. **FACESNY** receives funding from the DOH.
        i. **Feedback from the Committee** addressed concerns of the need for various smaller agencies that address health issues in the community to

partner together to create better outcomes. Partnership is critical for the success.

ii. **Contact Info:** Antonio Rivera, MSW Director of Education & Client Services, ph: 212-283-9180 email: arivera.facesny@gmail.com www.facesny.org Main address: 123 W. 115th St.

2. **HARLEM UNITED-** Dr. Jonathan Keith Joseph is the Chief Medical Officer at Harlem United. He provided a summary of the services Harlem United provides. It is a full service community clinic providing:
   a. **Primry Care Services**
   b. **Dental Services** with a partnership with Columbia University
   c. **Individual Counseling Services**
   d. **HIV and Sexual Transmitted Diseases Testing**
   e. **Substance Use & Recovery Services**
   f. **H.O.M.E Program** provides a full range of medical and mental health services for the LGBTQ community, specifically has a center for young adults 16-29 years old.
   g. **Transitional and Permanent Housing Services** for persons living with HIV/AIDS
   h. **Food and Nutritional** support for those with HIV/AIDS
      i. Dr. Joseph further discussed the issues around K-2 epidemic and education around needle exchange. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is getting better because of the strong advocacy for solving the HIV/AIDS health issue. On the other hand, there is no vaccine for Hepatitis and there is a strong need for 'advocacy for diabetes' because it impacts half of the Black population. Regarding collaboration, Harlem United is partnering with Columbia University and looking to work with Harlem Hospital. Harlem United is applying for an Article 32 tax status.
      ii. **Feedback from the Committee**: we need to work toward an "Infrastructure of Partnership" in our community aiming toward prevention of health risks and improving outcomes from illness to recovery in our community.
      iii. **Contact:** Harlem United, 306 Malcolm X Blvd. NY NY 10027, ph: 212-803-2850, website: www.harlemunited.org

3. **FORUM ON HOMELESS –** Dr. Cheryl Smith leading the charge on the Forum on Homeless, collaboration with the Health and Human Services Committee of CB10, Dept. of Homeless Services, the Coalition for the Homeless and the Manhattan Borough President's Office, with an approved budget of $1500. The event's location is being decided amongst the following: First Corinthian Baptist Church, St. Marin's Episcopal Church, or Mt. Morris Park Community. The purpose of the Forum is a call to action on homeless and finding measures for homelessness prevention. Issues to be addressed are defining homelessness, creating a report card with statistics on homeless every 6 months or annually, seeking support from political leaders on developing measures to eradicate homelessness, summoning support from residents, businesses, and religious institutions

to participate in solving the homeless issue. Homeless population is diverse; some are dealing with substance abuse or living HIV/AIDS; some are a part of the disabled community, those dealing with domestic violence and many are working families whose income does not meet the increase of rents and cost of living who are facing eviction. There is Street Homelessness, those in shelters facing eviction, and those who are living with families or friends (moving from couch to couch). The Community Board is defining homelessness as "persons without a place of their own to live", whereas the city characterizes homelessness as "street homelessness". The Forum will be held in November 2015 before Thanksgiving with the goal of bringing various institutions together to find solutions to this emerging problem.

4. **Community Board 3 and Commnity Board 11 Resolutions on Requesting NYS Penal Code Classification of "K2" as a Controlled Substance.** Community Board 10 received resolutions from CB3 and CB11 regarding the classification of "K2" the synthetic marijuana, as a controlled substance due to the emerging problem and how it adversely impacts residents in their communities which has devastating impact on its users. Recently, in September 2015, the City Council passed legislation which criminalizes K2 to support police efforts to eradicate the use of K2, to ban the sale and distribution of the drug, and imposes criminal penalties for violations.