

## HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – June 7, 2018

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Simon (Chair), Richard Allman, Sara Fisher, Elizabeth Lehmann,  
**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Daryl Cochrane (Asst. Chair), Andrea Kombluth (excused), Beatrice Hall (Public Member).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Anderson, Tanya Bonner, Danielle Jettoo.

**GUESTS:** Norberto Acevedo, Dhanraj Damri, Jaritza De La Cruz, Emanuel Louijeune, Iyad Marzouq, Marilyn Nunez, Rosaly Raman and Wackman Wong, all from the NYC Department of Design and Construction; Paul Dunphe, Warren Ng, Andres Nieto, Anne Sperling and Julio Batista, all from NY-Presbyterian Hospital; Sandra Harris, Columbia University Medical Center; Jeremy Klachkin, START; Cliff Elkind, Paul Hintersteiner, Allegra LeGrande, Barbara Lino, Cheramie Mondesire,

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S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and introduced the board members who were present.

1. **Presentation on replacement of Sanitary Sewers & Water Mains on Park Terrace West and East (from W. 214<sup>th</sup> St. to W. 218<sup>th</sup> Street)** – Jaritza De La Cruz, Community Construction Liaison, Dept. of Design & Construction, did a Powerpoint presentation and made the following points with other DDC officials:
  - Project began three weeks ago, now working at Park Terrace East & W. 218<sup>th</sup> St., Park Terrace West also affected.
  - Contract value: \$13,224,953.13. Duration of contract is three years, but goal is to finish in 1½ years.
  - Water mains from 1912-31, sewer lines from 1911-24 and gas lines from 1913-24 are being replaced. Old lines are being left in the street. New water mains will be made of ductile iron pipe, no lead joints, cement lined. Sewer lines will be clay pipe, larger than current ones. There are no combined sewers in this area.
  - Gas lines are being installed by Con Edison in conjunction with DDC work.
  - Also working on catch basins and replacing fire hydrants.
  - Work is being done generally one block at a time. Hours: 7am – 4pm weekdays, 8am – 6pm Saturdays.
  - One lane of traffic will remain open and pedestrian access at all times.
  - Parking will be restricted during construction. If contractor is working on a second block, parking there will be restored at end of the work day.
  - 72-hour advance notice to be provided to residents. Weekly notices are emailed. Bilingual flyers will be posted at building entrances.
  - Occasional nighttime water service interruptions may be necessary in order to maintain water supply to schools during daytime hours.
  - Water will be shut down for eight hours at a time – once a week or once every two weeks. There has been a problem getting the valves to shut off the water at current work site.
  - Brown water may come through taps afterwards. It is not a health hazard, but it is recommended that people run water for 20-30 minutes before using it.
  - Superintendents will be informed to shut valves at night to keep out sediment.
  - Individuals with special needs or those with questions should contact Ms. De La Cruz: 646-921-9201 or [sewerwatermainccl@gmail.com](mailto:sewerwatermainccl@gmail.com)
2. **Presentation on water main replacement project on various streets from W. 170<sup>th</sup> St. to W. 190<sup>th</sup> St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue** – Rosaly Raman, Community Construction Liaison, Dept. of Design & Construction, did a Powerpoint presentation and made the following points with other DDC officials:
  - Work began a couple of weeks ago at Wadsworth Avenue and W. 183<sup>rd</sup> St.
  - Contract value: \$24,467,390.65 (includes other sites). Duration: 3 years, 9 months (6/20/21)
  - Water mains being upgraded from 6 inches to 12 inches, should result in better water pressure.
  - Work also will be done one or two blocks at a time. Hours: 9am – 4pm weekdays, 8am – 6pm Saturdays.
  - Mobilization of equipment and materials in progress.
  - Tree pruning completed. Installation of tree protection in progress.
  - Saw cutting of roadway pavement and excavation for gas main installation.
  - Gas lines will be installed first, then the water mains, starting later this year or early next year.
  - Water mains in this area also about 100 years old.
  - Will coordinate with schools in the work area.
  - She is going building to building, compiling information on managers and supers.

- Individuals with special needs or those with questions should contact Ms. Raman at 646-596-7573 or [ddcwatermainccl@gmail.com](mailto:ddcwatermainccl@gmail.com)
- There are two other active DDC projects in our district: water main replacement on Haven Avenue and a pedestrian safety project at Broadway and Nagle Avenue.

3. **NY-Presbyterian Hospital's plan for a comprehensive mental health outpatient program** – Paul Dunphey, Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Allen Hospital, said the plan is not yet final and that the hospital is “partnering with experts in-state and out-of-state.” In response to a question from the committee, he said that “close to 100%” of the psych patients at Allen are paid for through Medicaid. The overall Allen population is split between Medicaid (60%) and Medicare (40%). The maternity patients are 95% Medicaid. The spine patients are 40% private insurance and 60% governmental. The patients at Milstein are 25% private insurance. In response to other questions, he said that 26 of Allen's 30 psychiatric beds are currently occupied and that there is “no timeline” for closing the unit.

Dr. Warren Ng, Director – Out-patient Behavioral Health Services, NYP, discussed the seven components of the comprehensive outpatient program listed in the April 4<sup>th</sup> letter that Dr. Steven Corwin, NYP's President and CEO, sent to CB 12 and others who voiced opposition to the plan to close the 30 psych beds at Allen. Dr. Ng said the goal is to treat people before they require hospitalization and thereby reduce hospital admissions, consistent with the state's Medicaid redesign program.

- Expansion of NYP's Community Crisis Stabilization program – mobile team of psychiatric workers, social workers and nurse practitioners visits individuals at home or in a community setting, critical time intervention, trained in substance abuse, bilingual, focused on Washington Heights-Inwood. A “crisis hub” screens people over the telephone and links them to appropriate providers: 212-342-4TLC (Treat Link Connect), 9-4 p.m. weekdays. Licensed clinical social workers spend half their time answering phones, the other half seeing patients.
- Continuation and expansion of mental health services provided at seven school-based health centers, including the George Washington High School campus, and 10 school-based behavioral health sites. Private consultation can be provided with a psychiatrist at NYP through “Tele-health,” no appointment needed. Parent / community workshops are held at each school.
- Development of an adult psychiatric intensive outpatient program. Looking at Yale program as a model. Patients would be seen for 3 hours 3-4 times a week for 6 weeks. Dual diagnosis track – substance abuse and mental health, 12 patients in each track. Would treat general severe mental illness – schizophrenia or mood / anxiety. Also a young adult track. Would be based at the Eye Institute, 4<sup>th</sup> floor. This is a possible option for in-patients, some of whom stay longer than necessary; would provide more flexibility in treating patients. No date set yet for starting this program.
- Enhancement of the Pediatric Emergency Department behavioral health programming – more therapeutic staff so that patients would start treatment while they are in the ED. Family meetings could be held right there to help identify and resolve problems.
- Development of a youth behavioral health crisis hub – would provide rapid assessment, alternative to going to the ED, more like a clinic. Would deal with developmental spectrum, autism.
- Programming through the NYP Eating Disorders Center – NYP has a robust, specialized program; additional assessment and training would be provided. Only one in the city that accepts Medicaid. Would be a new service for the Washington Heights campus.
- Expansion of ambulatory services for children and adolescents – would be based at the Morgan-Stanley Children's Hospital.

Andres Nieto, Director, Community Health, NYP, added that NYP has trained over 500 local clergy in the city's mental health first aid program. NYP staff also have been trained.

S. Fisher: The outpatient programs are not an alternative to in-patient hospitalization for patients.

Dunphey: The hospital will be submitting an application to the State Office of Mental Health “sometime this summer” for the decertification of the 30 beds and the initiation of the new services. The Certificate of Need application submitted to the State Department of Health in December was only the first step in the process.

S. Simon: The hospital should be committed to the expansion of these services regardless of how the state may decide on the request to decertify the 30 beds.

4. **Columbia University Medical Center Report** – Sandra Harris, Assistant Vice President – Government and Community Affairs, reported as follows:
- **Community Research Forum** – Next forum on 6/20 will focus on precision medicine and the “All of Us” research program.
  - **Baker Field Scholarships** – Lottery was held at the CB 12 office on 5/24. 32 scholarships to summer sports camps at the Baker Athletic Complex will be offered to local children.
  - **Haven Plaza** – The plaza proposal will be voted on by CB 12 on 6/26. The plaza will provide residents and community organizations with additional open green space and programming.
  - **Health & Wellness Fair** – CUIMC’s new Office of Service-Learning, along with the P&S Class of 2018 and the Columbia-Harlem Homeless Medical Partnership, ran a Health & Wellness Fair for residents of the Fort Washington Men’s Shelter on 5/11. More than 60 students volunteered. Residents received bags, food and clothing donated by CUIMC students.
  - **Fort Washington Greenmarket** – opened for the season this week and will return each Tuesday through 11/27 on Fort Washington Avenue between 168<sup>th</sup> – 169<sup>th</sup> Streets.
  - **Columbia University Opioid**
  - **Late Night Science** – The next session of “Late Night Science,” an informal lecture series led by CUMC graduate students, will be 6/26: “You’re Not Alone: How Neuroscientists Study Social Behavior.”
  - **Health Careers Scholarships** – 19 students are currently enrolled in the Stanley E. Michels Health Careers Scholarship through CUNY, and several more will receive them at the end of the spring semester once their clinical hours are completed. The total amount awarded to the current group of recipients thus far is close to \$50,000. We are planning an awards ceremony for either July 12 or 13. .

Speaking as President of the Washington Heights-Inwood Chamber of Commerce, she said the Chamber will be launching a 10-week health and wellness challenge, “Get Fit,” from 7/15 – 9/15, ending with an International Family Dine-Out Festival at the Armory 9/15. Every week there will be a wellness tip of the week.

5. **Isabella Geriatric Center Report** – Betty Lehmann, Director of Marketing & Communications, reported:
- Uptown Arts Stroll exhibit opened, with 75 works of art on display, including by residents of Isabella.
  - Latino Caregivers Conference to be held 9/19
  - Annual health fair to be held 9/26.
  - New MJHS ownership is working out, going through an “evaluation and integration period”
6. **Old Business** – S. Simon reported on the following:
- Street and Sidewalk Cleanliness Ratings: The rating for acceptably clean streets in our district for April was 90% (91.7% in March). Sidewalks were rated 97.6% acceptably clean in April (98% in March).
  - DEP Service Requests/Complaints: The total number of complaints or service requests from CB 12 residents in April was 224. The highest number (32) involved requests for lead testing kits. Complaints about noise from alarms (19), from construction before/after hours (17), from barking dogs (14) and from construction equipment (14) were next on the list.
  - AM New York reported today that the city’s residents are not recycling textiles. The Dept. of Sanitation estimates that in 2017 the average household threw out about 125.2 pounds of textiles – including towels, blankets, shoes and handbags – up from 110.3 pounds in 2005. While New Yorkers are generating less trash in general, they are throwing out lots of clothing. Many greenmarkets collect textiles for recycling.
7. **New Business** – B. Lino: Scaffolding has been up around the Denny Farrell Community Health Center for several years. Work has finally begun there, but there is a lot of garbage on the sidewalk.  
A. LeGrande: proliferation of paint on street underneath the #1 train north of W. 207<sup>th</sup> St.
8. **Announcements** – S. Fisher: WH-I Food Council holding 4-week educational workshop at its garden in Swindler Cove Park. Friends of Inwood Hill Park, Riverkeeper and Girl Scouts removed a ton of garbage from the Hudson River shoreline near the Dyckman Pier during “Clean the River” event on 5/5.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.