



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH

Commissioner

August 24, 2017

Lester Siegel
Unit Head, Community Board Unit
Office of Management and Budget
255 Greenwich Street – 7th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Siegal:

This letter confirms that the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene will participate in the upcoming FY2019 budget consultations scheduled in September and October 2017.

As requested, enclosed is the NYC DOHMH Policy Statement along with a list of attendees who will represent the Agency at the Borough Consultations.

Scheduled attendees include:

Bronx

- Director of Community Affairs – Ricky Wong
- Bronx Community Liaison – Meiling Viera

Manhattan

- Director of Community Affairs – Ricky Wong
- Manhattan Community Liaison – Pauline Ferrante

Queens

- Director of Community Affairs – Ricky Wong
- Queens Community Liaison – Chae No

NYC DOHMH Policy Statement

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) protects and promotes the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. The Department develops and implements robust public health education activities and policy recommendations, enforces health regulations and provides limited direct health services.

The Department works to ensure that conditions for good health – both available, sustainable, high-quality services and efficient, effective systems – flourish in New York City.

DOHMH seeks to reduce death and disability from chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer by reducing smoking and the consumption of unhealthy foods and by promoting physical activity. It contracts for mental health, developmental disability, as well as alcohol and substance use disorder treatment services. It works with health care providers to improve healthcare delivery and to increase use of preventive services, such as immunizations, and it collaborates with community-based organizations to prevent, detect and treat HIV infection.



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The Department's Early Intervention Program serves infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Direct services are provided at four tuberculosis clinics, eight sexually transmitted disease clinics, one immunization clinic, and more than 1,200 public schools.

DOHMH issues birth and death certificates, inspects restaurants and child care centers and protects public safety through immediate response to emergent public health threats such as the Zika virus. The Department's Neighborhood Health Action Centers work to reduce health disparities in the City's highest need neighborhoods.

Focus on Equity

The cornerstone of the Department's efforts to address disparities and advance health equity is at the Center for Health Equity. The Center focuses much of its attention on New York City's communities of color and low-income neighborhoods, which bear a disproportionate burden of poor health. Its four key areas of focus are: leveraging neighborhood assets to better integrate public health and primary care; fostering inter-agency collaboration to address the root causes of health disparities; ensuring meaningful community engagement and increasing the agency's organizational capacity to advance health equity.

The Center for Health Equity strengthens the Department's place based efforts via its three Neighborhood Health Action Centers, previously called District Public Health Offices. The Neighborhood Health Action Centers are part of New York City's plan to better link residents in neighborhoods with disproportionately high rates of chronic disease and premature death with local clinical and community services. The Action Centers enable community-based organizations and Health Department staff to work together to advance neighborhood health.