



# BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

BRONX, NEW YORK 10455

(718) 585-7117 • Fax (718) 292-0558 • E-mail: brxcb1@optonline.net

*SERVING PORT MORRIS • MOTT HAVEN • MELROSE*



**RUBEN DIAZ, JR.**

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**GEORGE L. RODRIQUEZ**

CHAIRPERSON

**CEDRIC L. LOFTIN**

DISTRICT MANAGER

## EDUCATION & YOUTH

### MINUTES

February 8, 2018

## BRONX HEALTH REACH

**Ms. Maria Byrne-Zaaloff, MPH** said that we are a community based organization that works in the Bronx with schools, community and faith based organizations and community residents. The Creating Healthy Schools & Communities original funding grant was for \$250,000 per year for over a five year period from 2015 to 2020 distributed by the New York State Department of Health. This amount was reduced by 20 percent in FY17 and is expected to be cut further by another 20 percent as of April 1, 2018. We were supposed to receive SNAP-ED funding in the amount of \$101,806 that had been approved by the United States Department of Agriculture to then be transferred from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (ODTA) to the New York State Department of Health but the transfer of those funds has still not been approved by ODTA. Without the full program funding and the additional \$101,806 means a slowing down, if not altogether halting our programming.

The CHSC program provides funding to improve health and wellness of students in School Districts 7, 8, 9 and 12 in the Bronx. In a borough that continues to rank last in health outcomes 62 out of 62 funding like this is critical if we are to improve health outcomes in the Bronx. Bronx Health Reach has expanded from serving 22 schools under Health Schools New York to 83 in the past year. We offer technical assistance and training to enhance programs and curricula and build a healthier environment for students, teachers and staff in schools and worksites.

Our school efforts to date have been the training in nutrition education, physical activity or school wellness policies to 53 teachers and 20 school aides representing 39 schools from Districts 7, 8, 9 and 12. In Districts 7 and 9 the Parent Coordinators received basic training in wellness councils and policies. There were new water fountains installed in 13 schools. At PS 300 the school courtyard was redesigned, playground now has a painted track course, basketball courts and a kickball space. Also planted vertical gardens at this school. This spring 20 new schools grew vegetables offering a tasting of "The Bronx Salad" for to encourage students to eat more vegetables. There are 11 schools that added weekly cooking courses for students and a monthly course for the parents. Worked for and secured funding for an additional 500 Physical Education teachers. Supported the Lunch4Learning campaign which provides free lunch for all students attending NYC Public Schools.

## **Pg. 2**

The community aspect of Creating Healthy Schools & Communities is a new addition. We're partners in the Complete the Concourse campaign to improve automotive, pedestrian and cyclist safety. Have engaged 19 worksites, health clinics, faith based organizations and community based organizations in wellness initiatives. We co-chair a Healthy Beverage Zone Project in prompting water as the healthy alternative to the beverages that are sugar sweetened. For this effort the Bronx is running as a Healthy Community 50 finalist for the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge. Bronx Health Reach has trained 28 retail stores to sell healthier foods. Physical Activity Training for School Aides bringing fun back to the playground with structured play.

Bronx Health Reach with two and a half staff members works to connect community members to efforts in making the healthy choice the easy choice throughout the Bronx. We're also connected to more than 70 partners such as the American Heart Association, Action for Healthy Kids, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, AmeriCorps-Food Corps, BronxWorks, Children's Aid Society, Green Thumb, Montefiore School Health Program, Morrisania WIC, New York City Department of Education Offices of School Food and School Wellness, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, New York City Parks Department and the United Way.

This program advances school and community level strategies working to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities and reverse the upward trend of chronic disease. Because there is not enough public health funding wellness and prevention programs already rely on each other for to fill the gaps. In order to have meaningful health programs for the community we cannot afford to have any further cuts to the funding in a borough that continues to rank last in health outcomes for the last three years in all of New York State number 62 out of 62.

The letter that I handed out just explains that our grant is \$250,000 and it's being cut by as I said 20 percent and they're planning on cutting it by a lot more so we would really not have a lot to work with in terms of programming. So essentially what we're asking is to reinstate the grant funding. We welcome you to come to our next meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> 1225 Gerard Avenue from 3:30 to 5:30.

Bronx Health Reach has been around since 1999 so we've been working in schools and churches for a long, long time.

### **Questions and Comments.**

### **The Chairperson called for a motion for a letter of support for the Bronx Health REACH Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Program.**

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the Bronx Health REACH Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Program. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

### **The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.**

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

### **Meeting Adjourned.**