



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Health & Human Services Committee Minutes

January 21st, 2025

Marilyn Peña, Committee Chairperson – Health & Human Services Committee

DRAFT

Introduction and Initial Presentations

- Committee Chair Marilyn Peña calls the meeting to order and introduces herself.
- Brenda Goodman introduces herself as a member of the community planning board and vice chair of Lincoln Hospital's community advisory board.
- Freddy Perez introduces himself as the first vice chair and mentions other community board members.
- Arlene Morales from Samaritan Daytop Village introduces herself and explains the purpose of her presentation on central admissions and overall enrollment processes in the Bronx.

Overview of Samaritan Daytop Village Services

- Arlene Morales explains the comprehensive evaluations provided at Samaritan Daytop Village, including substance use, mental health, and medication-assisted treatment.
- She describes the central admissions process, which allows individuals to walk in or schedule appointments for assessments.
- The goal is to assess and determine the appropriate level of care, whether it's residential, outpatient, or inpatient services.
- Morales highlights the flexibility of the admissions process, which can be done in person, over the phone, or via telehealth.

Details on Services and Age Requirements

- Morales provides a QR code for individuals to reassess and reconnect with the program if needed.
- She mentions the involvement of peers in the central admissions process to help individuals reconnect.
- Recovery services are available at the Richard Crest Wellness Center and in Queens, providing opportunities for individuals to build relationships and engage in activities.

- The organization serves individuals as young as five years old, including families and those in therapy.

Community Engagement and Linkages

- Morales discusses the organization's linkages with various community organizations, including Cartman McCloskey, the Bronx opioid collective, and Essence and Bronx Care.
- She emphasizes the importance of collaboration and communication with other organizations to meet the needs of clients.
- Morales mentions the success of their parenting groups and the integration of services for families.
- She agrees with the idea of forming a group to address community issues and suggests presenting to the health and community services meeting.

Population and Service Utilization

- Freddy Perez inquires about the total population served by Samaritan Daytop Village.
- Morales estimates that between 250 and 300 individuals are enrolled weekly, with about 60% presenting for services.
- She breaks down the percentage of services provided, with 65% related to addiction treatment and 35% to mental health.
- Morales explains the catchment area for their services, primarily within the 10451, 10455, 10467, and 10453 zip codes.

Outreach and Client Demographics

- Morales discusses the ratio of women to men in their programs, noting a recent increase in female participation.
- She explains the funding sources for their programs, including state funding and initiatives through OMH.
- The organization has teams embedded in shelters and community outreach programs to provide services where clients are.
- Morales highlights the importance of meeting clients where they are and providing integrated services to support their needs.

Community Concerns and Suggestions

- Member Joann Taitt suggests programs for teenagers to prevent future substance abuse issues.
- Morales acknowledges the need for such programs and mentions existing activities for adolescents at their outpatient clinics.
- She expresses willingness to collaborate with local schools and community organizations to expand these services.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the need for a coordinated response to address the state of emergency in the district related to drug use and harm reduction.

Harm Reduction and Community Impact

- Morales outlines the organization's approach to harm reduction, including education, coordination with other organizations, and providing resources like Narcan.
- She explains the importance of meeting clients where they are and providing support for their needs.
- Morales discusses the challenges of educating individuals about proper needle disposal and the potential for supervised use programs.
- She emphasizes the need for ongoing outreach and collaboration to address the community's needs.

Transportation and Client Navigation

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena inquires about the transportation services provided to clients.
- Morales explains that they use Uber and a van to transport clients to and from appointments, especially for those discharged from hospitals or detox.
- She highlights the importance of navigating clients to prevent lapses in care and ensuring they get to their appointments safely.
- Morales mentions the challenges of getting clients to accept transportation services and the importance of building trust and rapport.

Language and Cultural Sensitivity

- Ngande Ambroise raises concerns about language barriers and the need for cultural sensitivity in their services.
- Morales acknowledges the issue and mentions ongoing efforts to hire bilingual staff and provide translation services.
- She emphasizes the importance of having a diverse outreach team that mirrors the community to build trust and comfort.
- Morales agrees to reach out to community leaders and organizations to enhance their cultural and linguistic outreach efforts.

Final Questions and Clarifications

- Freddy Perez asks about the budget for the treatment programs and the funding sources.
- Morales explains that the budget varies based on the level of care and the specific program, and she offers to provide more detailed information in future meetings.
- Perez expresses discomfort with the organization's outreach in other boroughs and clarifies that they do not bring patients from outside the Bronx.

- Morales reassures that their outreach is focused on the Bronx and they do not bring patients from other boroughs.

Community Board and Mayor's Office Involvement

- Member Joann Taitt expresses support for the community's efforts and mentions ongoing programs and funding initiatives.
- She emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of substance abuse, including mental health, housing, and medication.
- Taitt highlights the city's focus on providing stable living conditions and working with NYPD to ensure community safety.
- She thanks the community board and Samaritan Daytop Village for their efforts and reiterates the mayor's commitment to addressing the challenges in the district.

New Business and Resolution Proposal

- Brenda Goodwin proposes a resolution to stop issuing support letters for new incoming agencies and programs.
- She emphasizes the need to clean up existing programs before allowing new ones and calls for a unified vote from the committee.
- Goodwin highlights the importance of the Health Committee's role in addressing the community's issues and calls for a monitoring resolution.
- Freddy Perez supports the proposal and emphasizes the need to stop new programs and shelters from entering the district.

Police Tower and Arrest Strategy Discussion

- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez suggests placing a police tower in the middle to deter drug dealers and emphasizes the importance of arresting dealers to eliminate the drug supply.
- Freddy Perez insists on the need for arrests and mentions the consequences of multiple arrests, including warrants and longer incarceration.
- The conversation touches on the necessity of budgeting and manning the command post to effectively control the situation.

Meeting with the New Captain and Board Support

- Brenda Goodwin mentions meeting with the new captain at the 40th precinct and offers to facilitate a meeting with him at the full Board meeting.
- Emphasis is placed on the need for support from all board chairs and other community members to ensure a unified approach.
- Brenda Goodwin highlights the importance of having all members in agreement and mentions the involvement of local council members and other agencies.
- The discussion includes the need for specialized hazardous material training for cleanup efforts and the importance of community involvement in maintaining cleanliness.

Planning and Coordination for Action

- Brenda Goodwin suggests having a meeting with the prison commanding officer to discuss the plan of action and avoid taking up time at the full Board meeting.
- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena emphasizes the need to present the plan to the general board meeting and mentions the importance of getting members' votes before presenting to the full board.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan clarifies the rules regarding virtual meetings and the need for in-person meetings for votes.

Implementation and Support from Council Members

- Brenda Goodwin advises getting support from council and assembly members to ensure the plan is implemented effectively.
- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez mentions the importance of having a clear plan to present to the police command and achieve the desired outcomes.
- Member Joann Taitt shares information about a new program for substance abuse and mental health, emphasizing the need for community support and involvement.
- The conversation includes the importance of recusing oneself from votes if an agency is involved, and the need for clear communication and coordination among all stakeholders.

Finalizing the Plan and Next Steps

- Brenda Goodwin reiterates the need for a unified plan and support from all board members to ensure the success of the initiative.
- Member Joann Taitt emphasizes the importance of having a clear plan and structure to present to the police command and achieve the desired outcomes.
- The discussion includes the need for a moratorium on new programs until a motion is brought to change or lift it.
- The conversation concludes with a motion to emphasize the importance of the plan and the need for community support and involvement in achieving the desired outcomes.

Action Items

Samaritan Day Top Village to connect with the 40th Precinct Council to collaborate and share information.

The Health and Human Service Committee to consider a moratorium or resolution to stop issuing support letters for new agencies or program expansions in the district.

The Health and Human Service Committee to meet with the 40th Precinct commanding officer to discuss a plan of action, including the possibility of a police tower in Roberto Clemente Plaza.

The Health and Human Service Committee to coordinate with other committee chairs and community stakeholders to gain support for the proposed moratorium or resolution.