



COMMUNITY BOARD NUMBER 1

384 EAST 149TH STREET, SUITE 320
BRONX, NEW YORK 10455

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

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CEDRIC L. LOFTIN
DISTRICT MANAGER

ADOLFO CARRION, JR.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GEORGE RODRIGUEZ
CHAIRPERSON

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2006

MINUTES

Attendance: Evelyn Munoz, Alex Diaz, Lindez Serrano, Myrna Lewis, Dean Perez, Maritza Robles

Others Present: Ana Alston, New York City Department of Health, Hector Ruiz, Reality Check, Juan Galarzo, Reality Check, Gwen Wernersback, Reality Check, Angely Pauline, Reality Check, Vanita Orie, Reality Check, Bervine Harris, Renaissance EMS, Olivia Coleman, Catapult On-line, Shahmet Bryant, Catapult On-line, Jewell Curry, Catapult On-line, Roslyn Bank, Catapult On-line, Charles Sands, AFCS

Renaissance EMS

Mr. Bervine Harris, Executive Director said that Renaissance EMS mission was to maximize the potential of at-risk youth through music and sports to reinforce the values of education, self empowerment, family and community.

Music program is designed to provide music instruction for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. This program is designed to teach students the many facets of the music entertainment industry. Classes are offered in vocal training, bass guitar, drums, keyboard, guitar, audio engineering, renaissance band, choral ensembles and music production.

Sports program the Renaissance EMS Warriors was created in response to the crisis of failing public schools and deteriorating neighborhoods. In response basketball was utilized as a form of engaging the youth for positive change. Warriors consists of five teams 12 & under, 14 & under, 16 & under, 18 & under and a college division. Each team has 15 players competing throughout the tri-state area and beyond. Activities are tournaments, group outings, and strong mentoring. The academic activities are weekly classroom mentoring, study hall sessions, report card/transcript evaluations, college entry preparations and visits, counseling and referrals.

The program strives to instill within students the values of self-worth, pride, commitment and family reverence through discipline, mentoring, academic programs and positive role modeling.

Reality Check Youth Action

Ms. Gwen Wernersback, Bronx County Project Coordinator said that Reality Check is a youth-led , adult sponsored movement about exposing the deceptive marketing practices of tobacco companies empowering young people to stand up against them in order to make a change. This is about getting people to understand how tobacco companies manipulate young people into becoming hooked on smoking.

Every year, more than 400,000 thousand people will die from tobacco related illnesses. Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in New York City. In New York State alone 35,300 young people 18 and under will become new daily smokers.

The tobacco companies spend millions of dollars annually to advertise their products to young people because they are more susceptible than adults. Youth are very brand loyal (between 1989-1993 “Joe Camel” campaign marked a 50% sale increase of youth but with no impact on adults. Often in the media smoking and tobacco are seen which sends a powerful message to the youth, where smoking is portrayed as being cool.

Youth are frequent movie goers. Smoking in movies makes tobacco use seem more normal and enjoyable. Exposure to smoking in movies contributes to youth smoking rates. Two-thirds of films today show tobacco use (45% of smoking is found in R-rated movies, and 55% in G, PG and PG-13).

Reality Check Youth Action is asking the committee for support of their initiative for reduced or eliminated smoking in G., PG and PG-13 movies.

New York Public School Supplemental Educational Service Provider – Catapult On-line

Ms. Alivia Coleman, Regional Manager said that Catapult On-line provides free at home tutoring.

Through the No child Left Behind Act Catapult On-line is offering free online instruction to eligible struggling school students. A no charge free computer is provided to the student which they can keep upon completion of the program.

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Instruction is live over the internet in their homes and the parents whether the student receives instruction in either reading or math. A certified teacher talks with the student through a headset guiding them through the program.

There are many parents that are not aware their child is eligible for free tutoring. In order for a student to be accepted into the program they must be on a free or half price lunch program and attending one of the eligible schools.

This program is valuable to those families that do not have access to technology for our children to acquire the necessary skills in order to be prepared for the job market. On-line tutoring provides the student with the opportunity to catch up in school and succeed. It has been proven that those students that have completed the Catapult On-line program have an average improvement of one full grade level in reading or math.

Adolescent & Family Comprehensive Services, Inc.

Mr. Charles Sands said that AFCS is a non-profit social service agency committed to reducing adolescent pregnancy and school dropouts in the Bronx community.

AFCS has trained professionals providing one-to-one counseling and group workshops in order to help clients redirect their lives.

The services provided are an Abstinence-Only Education Program, Young Achievers for young men and women (12-21), Peer Leadership Mentoring Program for young adults in grades (10-12), Saving My Heart a "Rites of Passage" for girls (12-16) to remain abstinent until marriage, Boys to Men an abstinence "Rites of Passage" for boys (12-16), Teen Dreams a 12-week program adolescents (12-19) exploring life skills and career choice options and college bound helping young people make positive educational connections and career choices through their visiting colleges and being taught job-readiness skills.

Motion made to support the idea behind the Reality Check Youth Action Tobacco Free Movie Initiative. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.