



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Health & Human Services/Policy & Legislation Joint Committee Minutes

October 17th, 2024

Marilyn Peña, Committee Chairperson – Health & Human Services Committee
Dalourny Nemorin, Committee Chairperson – Policy & Legislation Committee

Attendance: *Marilyn Pena, Claudia Rahman, Whitney Williams, Dalourny Nemorin, Ramon Ferreyra*

DRAFT

Introduction and Meeting Call to Order

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena calls the meeting to order and introduces herself as the chairperson for the Health and Human Service Committee.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin introduces herself as the chairperson for bylaws, policy, and legislation.

Discussion on Safe Injection Sites and Drug Use in the Bronx

- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin raises concerns about open drug use in the Bronx and discuss the community board's interest to evaluate solutions to combat this issue.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin mentions the opposition from Hochul regarding funding for safe injection sites.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin highlights community concerns about the oversaturation of drug clinics and the pushback against new facilities.
- Executive Director Sam Rivera from On Point NYC explains the challenges and misconceptions around safe injection sites, emphasizing the need for poly-modalities and the impact on community health.

Impact of Overdose Prevention Centers (OPCs)

- Mr. Sam Rivera discusses the benefits of OPCs, including reducing public drug use and the number of overdose deaths.
- Mr. Sam Rivera provides statistics on the reduction in syringe collection and the positive impact on community spaces like parks.

- Mr. Sam Rivera emphasizes the importance of separating OPCs from treatment centers and the need for more OPCs in New York City.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin and Sam Rivera discuss the visibility issues and the need to address public perception of drug users.

St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction Presentation

- Krystal Montalvo and Emory Alexander from St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction present their services and outreach efforts in the Bronx.
- St. Ann's provides wraparound services, including meals, syringe access, and drug user health hub.
- St. Ann's conducts syringe outreach response and mobile outreach, including peer-delivered syringe exchange and street outreach events.
- St. Ann's has started offering buprenorphine prescriptions and wound care services on the street.

Challenges and Future Plans for St. Ann's

- St. Ann's faces challenges in maintaining follow-up with participants and providing ongoing case management.
- St. Ann's is working on a mobile clinic to provide further privacy and access to services in the community.
- St. Ann's has a strong referral network with other healthcare providers for additional services like OBGYN and mental health.
- St. Ann's prioritizes services for women and provides specific outreach and support for women who use drugs.

Discussion on Policy and Legislative Support for OPCs

- Tony Smith from Drug Policy Alliance discusses the political landscape for overdose prevention centers at the state and city levels.
- Tony Smith emphasizes the need for vocal support from community members and elected representatives to advance the cause.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin and Tony Smith discuss the importance of community board support for OPCs and the potential impact on legislative decisions.
- Sam Rivera highlights the positive relationships with the NYPD and the importance of police support for OPCs.

Bronx Opioid Collective and Harm Reduction Efforts

- The Bronx Opioid Collective is developing an app to track and provide services, including syringe cleanup and referrals.
- The app aims to improve data collection and transparency in harm reduction efforts.

- The Bronx Opioid Collective emphasizes the importance of working together to address the opioid crisis in the Bronx.

Acacia Network and Integrated Services

- Acacia Network has a robust housing program and works closely with other organizations in the Bronx.
- Acacia Network highlights the importance of collaboration and the impact of their services on the community.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin and other participants discuss the need for more street outreach and the potential for a dedicated street team for the hub.

Next Steps and Community Board Support

- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin discusses the potential for the community board to continue evaluating solutions and increasing street outreach.
- The community board could advocate for more funding and support for harm reduction efforts.
- Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin emphasizes the importance of community board support and the potential impact on legislative decisions.
- Participants discuss the need for a clear calendar and coordination among organizations to avoid duplicative efforts and ensure continuous support for the community.

Action Items

Obtain a schedule of the street outreach coverage in the "hub" area from the Bronx Opioid Collective.

Invite Samaritan Village, a major provider in the "hub" area, to a future community board meeting to discuss their services and coordination with other organizations.

Explore the possibility of funding extended service hours for existing organizations, rather than opening new facilities, to provide late-night and weekend coverage.

Arrange for a tour of the On Point NYC Overdose Prevention Center for the Health and Human Services Committee.