



Ruben Diaz, Jr.
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Joseph Russo
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz
District Manager

Health and Human Services

Thursday, May 29 at 7:00PM

WEBEX Meetings (646) 992-2010 Access Key #712150758

Present: R. Bieder, N. Rosario, D. Hunt, P. Del-Debbio, H. Acampora, T. Franklin, L. Council, R. Barbarelli, T. Smith, J. Russo

Guests: Darlene Mulero (VA), Shawn Kingston (VA)

The committee meeting commenced at 7:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Committee Chairperson Rosario. Our guest speakers were Darlene Mulero and Shawn Kingston from the Veterans Administration in the Bronx. Mr. Kingston updated the committee that there were 23 COVID-19 positive patients and were in isolation within the hospital. Positive cases are dropping. Rapid testing and antibody testing is now available at the VA Hospital. It takes roughly 45 minutes to get results. Rapid testing is opened employees in addition to the veterans. Phase 1 is now in process. Phase 1 entails emergency surgeries can now occur. Phase 2 is the opening of outpatient services. Phase 2 will start within the next several weeks. Phase 3 is to allow visitors which will occur at the end of June. VA is a leader in telehealth. In 2019 they held more than 2 million telehealth appointments with veterans. VA is fully stocked with personal protective equipment. VA is establishing a food pantry for homeless veterans. Board Members P. Del-Debbio mentioned that he is currently delivering meals with Board Member M. Velazquez on City Island.

The VA Hospital will continue to provide care and food to veterans in need. Ms. Mulero and Mr. Kingston took questions from Committee Members on continued outreach, the overall health of veterans and whether the VA Hospital was adequately stocked with resources as the Board could assist in getting additional PPE equipment to the VA Hospital.

The meeting concluded at roughly 7:45PM with a motion of adjournment proposed by R. Bieder and seconded by T. Franklin and unanimously approved by all.