

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 6
YOUTH/HUMAN SERVICES/EDUCATION COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 28, 2012**

PRESENT:

P. BELLENBAUM	R. CERVONE	E. FELDER
C. RYAN	D. SCOTTO	B. SOLOTAIRE
S. TURET		

EXCUSED:

D. ABRAHAM	J. BERNARD	L. HILL
R. UNDERWOOD		

ABSENT:

E. CAUSIL-RODRIGUEZ	A. DAVILA	E. ECHEVARRIA
M. KOLMAN	M. RUIZ	M. SCOTT

GUESTS:

M. JORDAN	A. EMMIRCH	D. ANDUYAN
E. JOERSS		

*****MINUTES*****

Presentation and discussion with a representative for Narco Freedom Inc., which provides a methadone maintenance treatment program, an alternatives adult treatment program, and neighborhood and family health center clinic services at 561 Court Street (between Bush Street/Hamilton Avenue) in our district.

Narco Freedom is located at 561 Court Street (3 years at this location, and 10 years in the neighborhood.) The organization has been around for 40 years citywide. They work with people with addictive disease: alcohol, substance abuse, job readiness, CASAC training. Methadone – drug free.

In 2011, 80% of people who were admitted to the program graduated. Sobriety is tracked for 6 months minimum. 650-700 people a day come to Court Street. They stayed open for treatment during Hurricane Sandy. Anyone from anywhere can come in.

Q. Paige Bellenbaum asked if Housing Solutions USA has reached out to Narco Freedom?

A. No, but we would like to be involved.

Q. Paige asked has train closures affected you?

A. Not much.

Q. Suzanne Turet – where do clients come from?

A. Mostly from the neighborhood.

Narco Freedom has housing units in Bushwick and Brownsville – 100-150.

- Use evidence-based treatment.
- 217 Court Street facility rejected.

- Short-term mental health services provided.

Resolution: The committee supports the expansion of rehabilitative efforts by Narco Freedom based on letter. Motion was made by Benjamin Solotaire and seconded by Paige Bellenbaum.

VOTE: 6.....YEAS 0.....NAYS
MOTION PASSED

Presentation and discussion with a representative for the Charter Parent Action Network, a citywide education, engagement and advocacy program which supports parents' and school leaders' efforts to work together to build strong schools for their children.

Eric Joerss made the presentation for the Charter Parent Action Network. It does two basic things: Helps charters to get started and does advocacy.

- Charters – open to all, free to operate outside of the Department of Education and the United Federation of Teachers
- Charters can be innovators.
- Charters receive approximately the same funding as DOE schools but no facility funding.
- Charters only 8% of them are co-locations.
- Charters are not encouraged to reach out to communities until location has been selected by DOE.

Big boys of charters – Success and Kips are the ones who can battle community opposition.

Started NYC Collaborates, working with Principals on best properties of charters partnering with community schools.

Charters have issues with special needs and ESL students but we got the law changed to have targets for special needs and ESL.

There are 159 charters In NYC – 61 in Brooklyn (28 are opening) and 68 are authorized for NYC. 5% of students go to a charter school.

The Charter Parent Action Network is funded by Bill Gates' Robin Hood Foundation. It works more with small independents than larger schools. Link up between charters and neighborhoods needs to improve.

Charter teachers are not really paid same hourly as UFT but maybe more annually with smaller pension.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes were submitted by Benjamin Solotaire.