



Donovan Richards
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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

October 21st, 2024

Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee

Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey, Vice Chair
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Nellie Afshar

Absentees:

Warren Davis (*excused*)
Danielle Brecker
John Bahia
Benjamin Lucas
Thomas Mituzas (*excused*)
Leticia Vasquez

Julie Chou – Public Member

Atanu Majumdar – Public Member

Guest

Leanna Castillo, Director of Social Services, Queen Family Residence
Shanel Duncan, Recreational Coordinator, Queen Family Residence
Fanny Chang
Sharon-Rose Alonzo
David & Mina
Olivia Munn
James – Wellspring Church
Marisa – Wellspring Church
Danielle – Wellspring Church
Nick Gilman

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert

Lauren Springer, Chair Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

Lauren Springer introduced Leanna Castillo, Director of Social Services and Shanel Duncan, Recreational Coordinator of Queen Family Residence.

- Leanna Castillo shared a PowerPoint presentation of Queen Family Residence with the committee.
- Queen Family Residence is a shelter and is located at 7300 Queens Blvd. in Woodside.
- Queen Family Residence provide safe, temporary housing and essential support services for families in crisis.
- Home / Life Services (which operates Queen Family Residence) was founded in 1995.
- Their support and programs enable clients to thrive and move into appropriate permanent housing.
- They only serve families with children or expectant mothers.
- They have partnerships with organizations which helps support their clients. They have a connection with and provide referrals to Sun River Health and the Floating Hospital. They also refer to Elmhurst Hospital. St. Mary's pantry helps the families by providing supplemental food items and fresh produce.
- Home / Life welcomes donations, financial support, goods and services, art supplies, food donations, coats, socks.
 - A suggestion was made by Dr. Roz to connect Warren Davis, who helps coordinate CB2's annual coat drive.
 - Needed art supplies include crayons, markers, construction paper, glue, paint, paintbrushes for arts & crafts activities.
- A question was asked about what leads people to their facility.
 - The instability in housing is of great concern and leads people to shelters.
 - Salaries are not matching the demand of rent and other bills.
 - Families are forced to leave from pressure from the landlords.
 - Another reason family comes into shelter is domestic violence.
- Once a family is working, they become eligible for a voucher for housing.
- There is no limit on how long a family can be at the shelter, however, it does go case by case.
- Some families have been there for years, others as short as four months.
- Queen Family Residence accepts children's book donations and presently are looking for magazine donations for a planned Women's Empowerment Vision Board event.
- Donation emails can be sent to sduncan@queenfamilyresidence.com
- Families are mostly moved within the five boroughs towards housing where landlords accept the subsidies.
- Queen Family Residence now has a housing team. The housing team would speak to landlords and brokers in the community informing them about Queen Family Residence.
- They serve all families regardless of immigration status.
- However, for those families seeking asylum there are additional challenges as not having a social security card or not being a citizen. Therefore, they are not eligible for subsidies under Queen Family Residence guidelines.
- CB2 can help with tangible items and facilitating connections to different organizations with a shared vision.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber