



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

Public Safety Committee
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
6:30 PM
Hon. Tamara C. Martin, Chair

Board Members in Attendance: Tamara Martin, Christina Curry, John Lynch, Keith Taylor, Earl Keller and Maria Garcia

Guests in Attendance: Deputy Chief Tobin, Deputy Inspector Lola Obe, 28th Precinct, John Volpe, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and Richard Gamarra, Coming Home Program.

Presentations:

Diversion Center

There was a discussion on the Diversion Center that will open up through a community based organization in either in the 23rd, 25th or the 28th Precinct by October 1, 2015. The location of the center will depend on the response to Request for Proposals (RFP) that DOHMH will put out shortly. The Diversion Center was one of the solutions that came out of the task force that Mayor De Blasio formed in order to come up with solutions to address behavioral health, mental health and the criminal justice system. The task force had one hundred days to put together a report and come up with ways to better deal with individuals with behavior health, mental health and substance abuse issues, etc. This resulted in an action plan with twenty three or twenty four recommendations. The Diversion Center is one of the concepts that came out of that report. There will be an allotment of one hundred and thirty million dollars, with forty one million dollars coming from forfeiture money from the District Attorney's Office.

The Diversion Center will be an alternative to officers either taking an individual to a hospital or making an arrest for a low level violation charge. There are many individuals in the community who have mental, behavioral or substance abuse issues that are not getting the necessary help if they are arrested and just put through the system. In a lot of cases they tend to just be released and put back on the street in a matter of hours or days and their mental, behavioral, substance abuse issues, etc. are not addressed. This new program will allow specially trained officers who have gone through a four day training on mental health signs as well as de-escalation training to have a third option when they identify an individual they believe have behavioral, mental or substance abuse. This third option will enable officers to determine if a particular individual can voluntarily be dropped off at the Diversion Center instead of going to the hospital or getting arrested. The Diversion Center will only be an option for individuals that commit a violation.

The center will allow individuals to stay there for up to 72 hours and will offer services such as: nursing, peer mentoring, drug counseling and care coordination.

The committee agreed that it would a good idea for DOHMH and NYPD to make a short presentation to the full board at the next general board meeting.

Coming Home Program

This program is a one stop provider located in clinics at Mount Sinai and St. Luke's Hospitals that offer services in areas such as: anger management, homeless services, peer counseling, anger management, health care and social services to individuals who were formerly incarcerated. The program has four community health workers who advocate on the behalf the clients. The community health workers accompany the clients to court, doctor appointments and assist them with any challenges they may face as they try to assimilate back into society.

New Business:

Chair, Tamara Martin reported back to the committee that about her idea to put together a gang awareness presentation. She had spoken to Lt. Robert Mirabal, who is assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division regarding the presentation and he has agreed to come out with a few colleagues who work directly with various gangs to speak about this matter before the community. The committee agreed that the tentative date for the presentation would be June 30, 2015.

Old Business:

Chair, Tamara Martin stated that she was in contact with the FBI and they would not be able to do the presentation on African Criminal Enterprises and Terrorism in Africa and the Middle East until sometime in the fall of the year, due to their expert being away for training in Quantico, Virginia for the next several months.

Announcements:

Christina Curry announced the "Shine the Light" Domestic Violence March will take place on October 26, 2015. People can meet outside her office at 125th and St. Nicholas Avenue to join her in the march. Participants will be coming from North, South, East and West and will converge in front of the Harlem State Office Building.

Meeting Adjourned