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# CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee Minutes

Monday, March 18, 2024

Hon. Dominick Boyce, Chair

Hon. Dr. Maurice Franklin, Vice Chair

**Members in Attendance Present:** Hon. Dominick Boyce, Hon. Karen Dixon, Hon. Bailey Jeremie, Hon. Dr. Maurice Franklin, Hon. Daniel Patterson, Hon. Dawn Richards, Hon. Dr. Cheryl Smith

**Board Member in Attendance Present:** Hon. Marquis Harrison

**Excused Committee Members:** Hon. Dr. Maurice Franklin (Virtual), Hon. Donna Gill (Virtual)

**Manhattan Community Board #10 Staff Present:** Minah Whyte, Miguel Walters

### MEETING OVERVIEW

The meeting was called to order by Chair Boyce at 6:38 pm.

Chair Boyce provided welcome remarks to all attendees and provided agendas to everyone in attendance. Chair Boyce asked each Committee members to introduce themselves followed by all Board Members present.

- Chair Boyce noted that we achieved quorum and there were no voting items to act upon at the meeting.
- The Committee and the public attendees heard its first presentation from Richard Taylor, Regional Sales Manager, MetroPlus Health Plan. He presented an overview of MetroPlus in the Harlem community. Currently, there are 750,000 members, 34,000 providers and have staff that speak over 40 languages. It is the #1 ranked plan NYS HIV Special Needs. MetroPlus serve individuals and families, people with Medicare and group plans. Under individuals and families, it covers Medicaid, child health plus, essential plans, NYS Marketplace plans, HIV/SNP, HARP and Managed Long-Term Care. Under groups, MetroPlus covers NYC employees too. Also, there are different levels of plans such as gold, silver, and platinum. Also, behavior health services offer case management to assist members to manage behavioral health conditions. MetroPlus has 360 degree support services that include coordination of care, dietary service, HIV support services, LGBTQ resources, Pill Pack, Homeless Services Housing Resource. Also, MetroPlus has a member reward program for all of its plans. There is a community office between 125<sup>th</sup> & 126<sup>th</sup> Street on Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard and they have the IDNYC program staff in their office on Mondays. Lastly, MetroPlus does events with community groups to bolster health insurance coverage in the community.
- The Committee and the public attendees heard a second presentation from Pauline Ferrante, Manhattan Community Liaison, NYC Department of Health and Mental

Hygiene (DOHMH). There are no major updates from the department but she presented the information that is currently on the DOHMH website. It includes a lot of information about COVID, flu and RSV. Currently, COVID is trending down significantly. The new update is Healthy NYC on the website. This is New York City's campaign for healthier, longer lives. The goal is to increase the life expectancy of New Yorkers to 83 by 2030. Over the last couple of years, COVID, heart disease and diabetes and screenable cancers and drug overdoses drove the life expectancy down. All indicators are broken down by race and ethnicity. Additionally, there are New York City Community Health Profiles for all 59 Community Districts.

- The Committee and the public attendees heard its final presentation from Deborah Levine, Community Engagement Officer, CUNY School of Public Health. Harlem Strong was designed with its community members. She provided an overview of the Harlem Strong Initiative's mission which is to:
  1. Promote mental health awareness and access to mental health resources across the community
  2. Increase connections to care through warm, culturally responsive care navigation by community members
  3. Build these navigator's capacity in mental health promotion and mental health task-sharing skills to address the stigma of mental illness and community needs and to
  4. Strengthen community resilience in the face of new and ongoing challenges
- In terms of provider survey updates there were 72 completers that completed the baseline survey. The mean age was 47 years, 69% identified as women, 58% identified as Black, 23% as Hispanic/Latino, 13% White, 10% American Indian, and 17% were born outside of the United States.
- In terms of consumer survey updates 113/161 (70%) consumers screened positive for mild depression/anxiety (high rate of MH concern). 80/113 (70%) consumers consented and completed their surveys

This is a task shifting intervention that trains community health workers and providers both online and in-person. Ms. Levine noted that we are losing providers across Manhattan Community Boards #9, #10 and #11. There is a total of 50 community partners at this time. There is an online resource directory too. There are 13 webinars that are free on CUNY's Youtube page. Many of the webinars provide continuing education credits.

Under old business, the Committee discussed the City's response to Manhattan Community Board's District Needs Statement and budgeted requests. The City's response stated that the Board's request is being honored throughout the current budget outlay or that the Board should speak directly with the individual city agencies to make its case for more funding. The goal is to work with the elected officials on both the city and state levels to address these shortfalls in the budget and advocate for the District needs. To that end, the Board Chair noted that he attended the Borough Board meeting to discuss priorities for the city budget and he agrees with our emphasis on follow-up on our community's concerns. Moving forward, the Committee would

like to be a part of a solution-driven meeting for all committees of Manhattan Community Board #10 with regard to the District Needs and the City's response to it.

- Under announcements, Dr. Cheryl Smith reported that Marcus Meets Malcolm will host an Easter egg hunt on Easter day, Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm on 120<sup>th</sup> Street between Malcolm X Boulevard and Marcus Garvey.
- Under announcements, Dr. Maurice Franklin reported that at 1:00 pm on April 6 the Mother AME Zion Church , located at 140-146 West 137<sup>th</sup> Street, will host a wellness event around Grief and Healing hosted by Northwell Health and the NY Philharmonic.
- Under announcements, Board Chair Harrison reported that former Health & Human Services Chair, Dr. Hazel Dukes, turned 92 years old over the weekend and had a birthday celebration.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.