



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson
Minah Whyte
District Manager

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee Minutes

Monday, April 15, 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. Donna Gill, Hon. Daniel Patterson, Hon. Dawn Richards, Hon. Dr. Cheryl Smith

Representative of Elected Officials: Shawn Brannon, Community Liaison, Office of Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President

Manhattan Community Board #10 Staff Present: Minah Whyte, Juanita Anderson

MEETING OVERVIEW

The meeting was called to order by Chair Boyce at 6:30 pm.

Chair Boyce provided welcome remarks to all attendees and provided agendas to everyone in attendance. Chair Boyce asked each Committee member 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 Pauline Ferrante, Manhattan Liaison, Office of External Affairs, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). Ms. Ferrante 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, cancers, and drug overdoses have driven life expectancy down. All indicators are broken down by race and ethnicity. The DOHMH has three sites in Harlem; two in East Harlem and one in Central Harlem: 161-169 East 110th Street, 158 East 115th Street, and 2238 Fifth Avenue. Ms. Ferrante spoke about health equity and the diversity of resources at each of the locations. She indicated that the staff of the Central Harlem Fifth Avenue clinic would be very happy to present to the board too.
- The Committee and the public attendees heard a second presentation from Dr. Karina McArthur, MD, MBA, Chief Surgery Process Improvement, Harlem Hospital. Dr. McArthur discussed that she is a bariatric surgeon by training. She noted that hospitals are required to do a formal health equity project examining quality data to see if there are any disparities in the quality of care that is being provided based on race, gender, age and so on. In May 2023,

a Health Equity Committee was formed at Harlem Hospital and Dr. McArthur was identified as the lead person. The committee had met monthly to identify an initial project and address the collection and action plan for patient social needs. The project selected by the group is **Increasing Access To Obesity Care**, specifically for Black and African American patients. Obesity is defined as BMI (Body Mass Index) greater than 30, which is basically your height divided by your weight. Dr. McArthur noted that medical problems associated with obesity include: high blood pressure, diabetes, joint problems, heart disease and certain types of cancer. Obesity is correlated with increased mortality. She reports that the social determinants of health play a critical role here too. It is very difficult for someone who is significantly overweight to live their life to its full potential., both in quantity and quality of their life. Dr. McArthur is requesting the community's input and support in implementing this project to help end disparities in obesity care in Harlem. Her ideas include the following:

- .1. Cookbook (culturally appropriate)
 - .2. Dispelling obesity myths in counseling patients
 - .3. Community events with local chefs'
 - .4. Exercise and cooking classes
 - .5. Meeting with elected leaders
- The Committee and the public attendees heard its third presentation from Shakima Grant, MA, Senior Community Program Manager, Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care located at 1919 Madison Avenue at 124th Street . Ms. Grant noted the Ralph Lauren Center was founded 20 years ago by Dr. Harold Freeman with support from MSK, Ralph Lauren Foundation and the former North General Hospital. MSK's mission is ending cancer for life. The Center's patients come from all over NYC, but mainly Harlem and the South Bronx. More than half of the patients report income below \$28,000. Services include three types Diagnostic and Treatment Services, Counseling and Support for Patients and Cancer Screening. The Cancer Screening component include:
 1. Breast cancer (ages 40 & older)
 2. Cervical Cancer (ages 21-65)
 3. Colorectal cancer (ages 45-75)
 4. Prostate cancer (ages 45-75)
 5. Lung cancer screening referrals (ages 50-80)

One main focus is on breast cancer. Breast cancer does not have to be fatal. Increasing screening access increases survival. The Center wants to bring clinical trials and advanced cancer treatment to Harlem. They accept Medicaid and offer screenings with no out of pocket cost for those eligible for the Cancer Service program through New York State. They offer 3D mammograms and ultrasounds and specialize in breast exams and imaging for people at higher risk for breast cancer. Additionally, they have a mobile health unit that routinely visit sites like the East Harlem Neighborhood Action Center, faith-based institutions and community partner events throughout NYC.

The Committee and the public attendees heard its fourth presentation from Malcolm A. Punter, EdD., MBA, President & CEO, Harlem Congregation for Community Improvement (HCCI). Dr. Punter noted that the Harlem Strong Initiative is a collaboration of the CUNY Center for

Innovation in Mental Health, City University Graduate School of Public Health and HCCI. Harlem Strong's mission is to address the syndemic risks of mental health, social risks, institutional racism, and COVID-19 through a neighborhood based multisectoral coalition of community, faith-based, mental health, social service, health, and city organizations focused on mental health integration and coordination of care across the Harlem community. The specific goals of the coalition are to:

1. Promote mental health awareness and access to resources across the community
2. Increase linkage to care through care navigation
3. Build capacity in mental health promotion and task-sharing skills
4. Support continuous quality improvement, and
5. Strengthen community resiliency.

Harlem Strong was started as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic but HCCI has been operating in this health & wellness space since its inception, including providing affordable housing, case management and other supportive services in areas such as HIV/AIDS. HCCI was started in 1986 by the houses of worship in the Harlem community. HCCI's by-laws require two-thirds of its Board of Directors to be leaders in the faith community such as pastors, imams, rabbis and so forth. Coalition-building has always been in the DNA of HCCI so when Deborah Levine brought the idea to HCCI about the mental health coalition it was a natural fit. This initiative is funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as well as grants from CUNY itself. At the last meeting we focused on making sure that we promote mental health awareness and access to mental health resources. One of our main goals is to build navigation systems and train people to be navigators in promoting mental health. The Initiative are working with all three Community Boards in Harlem to engage community members as well as elected leaders. The Initiative staff are training case managers. We have published peer-reviewed research articles on COVID and how it impacted low-income housing residents. The goal is to give quarterly updates to the community board. We are working with Dr. Lena Green of the Hope Center and Rev. Dr. Charles Butler, Pastor of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, both whom have expertise in mental health counseling and case management services.

- The Committee and the public attendees heard its final presentation from Abdrane Prince Coulibaly, Director, CitiCares Community Health Center which is located at 154 West 127th Street in Central Harlem. It is a division of Urban Health Plan, Inc., which was founded by Dr. Richard Izquierdo in 1974. It is a federally qualified Community Health Center that provides primary and specialty care services. It expanded to its Harlem location in 2017. Its scope of services includes adult medicine, pediatric, GYN, HIV Care/Prep, Cardiology, Podiatry, Mental Health & Wellness and Social Services. They have achieved such during COVID with their virtual care center and night clinic. Their challenges include expanding community partnerships and mental health /behavioral health offerings to the community. Mr. Coulibaly offered to provide a tour of the Harlem facility to the Committee members.

Under old business, there were no outstanding matters to discuss by the Committee.

- Under announcements, Dr. Franklin invited everyone to attend the virtual program sponsored by the Harlem Hospital Community Advisory Board called Tackling Anxiety & Depression – The State of Mental Health in Harlem on May 1, 2024 from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM. Also, Manhattan Community Board 10 and the Harlem Health Initiative are also partners for the event among others.
- Under announcements, it was reported that MSK is hosting a Cancer Disparities Awareness Community Event on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Harlem Temple Corps located at 540 Malcolm X Boulevard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm